

Tensions rise between Turkey, allied troops

By Rasit Gurdilek
The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Summering tensions between Turkish officials and the allied forces trying to repatriate Kurdish refugees have exploded in a series of incidents that could threaten the relief effort.

In the latest sign of trouble, Turkey closed its border with Iraq for about three hours Friday, holding up the overland transport of relief supplies. Turkey said it was enforcing border controls on the trucks' cargoes.

The move came after a Turkish newspaper claimed that Iraqi forces were shipping guns to Iraqi Kurdish rebels in aid packages to Iraq.

U.S. and Turkish authorities quickly denied the report, but it caused controversy in Turkey, which has faced a 6-year-old insurgency by members of Kurdish minority seeking greater autonomy.

The border incident also appeared linked to an article in the London newspaper, the Independent, that accused Turkish soldiers of stealing relief supplies. Infuriated Turkish officials on

Friday deported the newspaper's Middle East correspondent, Robert Fisk, who wrote the article.

On Thursday, Turkey ordered the withdrawal of 26 British royal marines for allegedly roughing up a local Turkish official in a refugee camp.

The perceived insults to Turkey have prompted opposition political leaders to demand that all foreign troops leave Turkey.

"Turkish troops should be in charge of distributing aid, not foreign troops," said Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Social Democrat Populist Party.

"Not only should these troops go, but so should President Turgut Ozal and the government, which make people think as if Turkey is invaded by foreign troops," said Bulent Ecevit of the Democratic Left Party.

Ozal invited the allied troops to help aid the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees converging on Turkey's border. He was the first to suggest that allied forces create "safe havens" in northern Iraq.

But relations have grown increasingly chilly between the allied relief officials and the

Turks. In part, Turkey is upset by foreign media accounts criticizing its aid effort and troops. That anger is sure to increase with the outbreak of cholera in one sprawling Turkish border camp. The Western relief group Doctors Without Borders on Friday reported 100 cases of cholera in the past week among Kurdish refugees at the Cukurca camp and said three people have died of the disease.

At the same time, there has been friction between Turkey's powerful, proud military and thousands of foreign troops setting up bases in southeastern Turkey.

Local officials have taken part of the blame for the criticism about Turkey's treatment of the refugees.

"Had we been too soft (on the Iraqi Kurds), we would be seen as ready to accept them as refugees," said Shabbatin Harput, governor of the border province of Hakkari.

A statement reflected the government's fear that it would be forced to foot the bill for the refugees. Officials are still smart-

ing over the arrival in 1988 of about 60,000 Iraqi Kurds, about 27,000 of whom remain in refugee camps.

Turkey was relieved when it became clear that Western relief efforts were serious, but remained dissatisfied over the amount of aid being contributed. High-ranking officials contend that despite its scarce means, Turkey has provided seven times as much aid to the refugees as all the other countries put together. However, they have overlooked the aid air-dropped by Western air forces, or contributions countries have made to private agencies.

Turkey has been especially sensitive about reports from foreign media and relief officials criticizing the army for the deaths of refugees caused by "stray bullets" fired in the air to quell food riots.

Turkish officials and media have responded with claims of a double standard.

Last weekend, the daily Hurriyet featured a half-page photo showing a U.S. supply helicopter under siege by Kurdish refugees at a camp on the Turkish border.

U.S. envoy tells Israel aid for immigrants not assured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — U.S. Ambassador William Brown, criticizing Israel's settlement and economic policies, warned on Friday that billions of dollars in aid to absorb immigrants was not assured.

His comments came just two days after Washington snubbed Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, an action seen as a first sign of long-predicted U.S. pressure on Israel to soften its position on peace talks.

"Tremendous priority has been given to providing housing in the territories," Brown told business leaders in Tel Aviv.

"Indeed, as we found out recently, mobile homes that sometimes take many months to install on this side of the green line seem to be installed overnight in the West Bank."

Green line is a colloquial term for Israel's borders before the 1967 war, in which it captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Brown said Israel should not depend on receiving foreign aid to absorb Soviet immigrants,

whose numbers have topped 200,000 in 18 months.

"As a friend, I must tell you that to base your hopes mainly on the generosity of foreign governments, even my own, is not the whole solution," he said. "There can be no assurances that tens of billions of dollars will materialize that way."

Israel receives more U.S. aid — three billion dollars a year — than any other country.

Sharon, who was denied a formal meeting with his U.S. counterpart on Wednesday by order of Secretary of State James Baker, has accused the United States of trying to force Israel to "trade land for Jews" by hinging loan guarantees to Israeli concessions on the peace process.

Sharon had angered Baker by announcing plans for further settlement as Baker was trying to persuade Israel and Arab states to open peace talks.

Some 100,000 Jews have settled in the occupied territories, where Palestinians have been in revolt against Israeli occupation 40 months.

Carlucci urges West Bank elections

By Rosalind Mardini and
M.C. Jasperen

WASHINGTON — Araba should call for elections in the West Bank and, at the same time, insist on peace negotiations with Israel, Frank Carlucci, former U.S. secretary of defense, told participants of the eighth annual Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee's (ADC) convention.

Addressing the convention kick-off dinner May 2, Carlucci said, "Indeed, I think the Palestinians are passing up a bet (by) not pushing on (Israeli Prime Minister) Shamir's old, now-discarded proposal for elections on the West Bank. Even if they're not perfect, some kind of an electoral mandate would help to shake the Israeli hammer-lock on the West Bank."

The ADC's convention, being held here May 2-5, follows what the ADC calls "a high profile year for the Arab-American community." Panel discussion on the convention theme: "Arab-Americans: In the Struggle for Peace and Justice."

The ADC is a non-sectarian, non-partisan service organization dedicated to the promotion of the civil and legal rights of people of Arab descent, including resistance to racism, discrimination, and stereotyping of Arab Americans.

The ADC has over 25,000 members organized in 70 chapters, making it the largest Arab-American organization in the United States.

Carlucci said it was clear to him that the only solution to Israeli-Palestinian problem "is to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." He added, however, that this "does not necessarily mean a Palestinian state — but is sure doesn't preclude it."

At the same time, Carlucci emphasized, it is important for Arabs "to say publicly what they have told us all the time: that they are willing to make peace with Israel, and let Israel live in security."

"We need to destroy the argument — in this country and in the halls of Congress — that the Arabs are not willing to make peace, because you and I know that they are willing to make peace," he said.

"I think we're now seeing the problems associated with the kinds of solutions some Arab

countries have advocated in the past — a peace conference, international conference, or regional conference. It's a very easy thing to frustrate," he said. "In my own judgement, the best course... is to proceed with functional negotiations (on) regional arms control — Israel has indicated receptivity to that — water rights, local autonomy."

Carlucci warned that "the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the threat of regional wars using this weaponry" represent "a major threat" to the 1990s. "We need to construct a deterrent," he said.

On the question of human rights, Carlucci said the United States must condemn Israeli violations of Palestinians' human rights "just as vigorously as we condemn Iraqi violation of human rights."

In the convention's first panel discussion May 3, Representatives Don Edwards (Democrat of California) and Norman Mineta (Democrat of California), and the former Democratic representative from Missouri, David Bowen, emphasized that Arab Americans must become politically active if they want to counter the pro-Israeli lobby's powerful influence in Congress.

Constitutional opinion "is very important. We really listen to people," Edwards said. "We have to; it's our survival."

Mineta recalled being interned as a 10-year-old in a camp for Japanese Americans during World War Two. That would never have happened to him, he said, if Japanese Americans had had a strong involvement in politics at the time war broke out.

The convention programme also includes panels on: Domestic issues of concern to the Arab-American community: congressional activism, minority business status for Arab Americans, psychological and social issues facing Arab Americans, and organizing Arab Americans on campus.

Issues brought out by the war in the Gulf, press coverage in the Gulf, relief and refugee efforts after the war, and the Gulf crisis and the backlash against Arab Americans.

Other Middle East issues of continuing importance will also be addressed, including panels on the Israeli occupied territories and the future of the Arab World.

Beirut is rising from the ashes once again

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — These days, hospital wards are filled with accident victims and soccer players with broken ankles, not wounded militiamen or civilians hit by shell splinters.

Beirut is rising from the ashes once again.

Thousands of Lebanese who fled the carnage now plan to return and are enrolling their children in schools. Workers are scraping morbid photos of militia "martyrs" off the city's walls and putting up colourful posters for concerts and carnivals.

Peace really seems at hand this time, after 16 years of civil war that cost an estimated 150,000 lives and displaced one-fourth of the one million people who lived in Lebanon.

On orders of President Elias Hrawi, soldiers moved into the cantons of Maronite Catholics and Druse Muslims northeast and southeast of Beirut this week, exerting government authority there for the first time in years.

The main Maronite and Druse militias are surrendering their heavy weapons in the second phase of a peace plan arranged by the Arab League. Militias withdrew from Beirut

during the first phase, in December.

Disarming other factions, the final and most difficult stage, is to begin July 1.

That will put the army in direct confrontation in the south with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel's surrogate South Lebanon Army, and in the east with Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their Shiite Muslim protégé militia Hizbollah, or Party of God.

These groups refuse to surrender their weapons. The Israelis and their allied militia occupy a border zone and refuse to relinquish it because of the threat from the PLO and other guerrilla factions.

Still, the civil war that began in April 1975 appears to have ended.

Gone is the green line, a detested no-man's land running for eight kilometres between the Christian and Muslim sectors of Beirut. The army bulldozed it.

People are visiting old friends on the other side for the first time in a decade.

Christian militia commander Samir Geagea and Walid Jumblatt, the Druse warlord, have declared publicly that they consider the war over. "A new peace is dawning,"

said Geagea, once a medical student and now commander of the Lebanese Forces. "Arise in welcome, salute it and be happy for its arrival."

As Safir, a leftist Beirut daily, declared in response: "This is like an official obituary for the era of the militias."

Hrawi's authority depends largely on the support of Syria, which has 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League, but the army now controls about one-fourth of the country.

More importantly, many of the militiamen who strutted the Beirut streets and fought each other in turf wars have resigned themselves the loss of power — at least for the time being.

Some feel bitter. "We're the ones who risked our lives for Lebanon," one said. "The army's just taking over after we did the dirty and dangerous work for them."

Most Lebanese seem to feel their nightmare is finally over and Hrawi can start putting the shattered economy back together.

Beirut will need years of rebuilding to become the commercial centre of the Middle East, as it was before 1975. It may never again be the

playground of Arab oil sheikhs and high rollers, but with financial backing from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, the Lebanese are ready to take their best shot.

"The war's over. It's really true. It's no longer just a dream," said Hyman Shami, a Muslim secretary. "It's the first time since the war started that I've felt this way, good."

More than 50 restaurants and boutiques have opened in recent months. Gilded stores have acquired new facades, and churches and hotels have been renovated.

Stone blocks and sandbags that protected stores and apartments from shrapnel and gunfire are being moved away. Underground shelters, where thousands of families spent weeks on end when the fighting raged, are being cleaned and closed, in hopes they won't be needed again.

Police, after years as hapless bystanders to militia battles, are beginning to reassert their authority.

They also have a new mission: wiping out packs of stray dogs that lived in the green line ruins, feeding off the corpses of slain gunmen. The dogs now scavenge in residential areas, terrifying the people.



WAR STORIES — A Muslim militiaman takes a break from his part at a rocket launcher aimed at Christian troops positioned along Beirut's Green Line.

Operations are resuming at the battered international airport, but it is used only by Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, and a few Eastern European airlines. The Dutch airline KLM and others are sending teams to discuss resuming flights, many for the first time in at least 14 years.

Electricity and water, cut off completely a year ago, now are provided 6 to 12 hours a day. At other times, the city burns with the sound of thousands of generators.

Skeptics remain. Peace agreements have come and gone before.

Patrick Smith, whose supermarket offers a rich variety of imported goods, has not removed the stone blocks around his west Beirut store.

"They're part of the decor," he said. "And, anyway, I'm still afraid of bombings."

Some people even feel nostalgia for the crazy days when militias ran the city and Muslim west Beirut, in particular, was little more than a shooting gallery for unruly gunmen.

"Those days of the war had a special quality," said Rima Itani, a bank clerk. "The war brought people closer. There was a feeling of camaraderie, shared danger. I miss that."

Bush focus on Mideast peace draws mixed reviews

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — To the chagrin of some analysts and the relief of others, President George Bush has made a personal commitment to settling the Arab-Israeli conflict despite an apparent lack of progress in Secretary of State James Baker's peace diplomacy.

One group of experts argues the United States is squandering time and effort on an intractable problem while attention is diverted from more important matters, such as the upheavals threatening to break apart the Soviet Union.

The opposing camp insists Baker's three recent Middle East missions have achieved some movement, however subtle, that could at least bring Israel into direct peace talks

with Jordan and Palestinians and must be pursued.

After several days of official silence, Bush on Thursday sent a clear signal about continued top-level focus on this.

Talking to White House reporters, the president refused to concede defeat in the peace effort and committed his personal prestige to it, saying: "I am determined to be the catalyst in that troubled corner of the world for peace."

Baker's trip to the region last week — his third since the Gulf war ended at the end of February — seemed to make little headway towards his goal of arranging a peace conference that would lead to direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

After 11 days on the road, the secretary, who hates to fail, left a question about whether

he would return to the Middle East and seemed impatient with his flagging mission.

A private meeting on Wednesday between Bush and Baker to discuss "appropriate next steps" seemed to sweep away doubts. The president said he had no immediate plans to send Baker on a fourth trip but noted: "that could change any minute."

Senior U.S. officials say Bush and Baker made new decisions about their peace strategy but, as with most of Baker's negotiations, details were kept secret.

Bush began the new Middle East initiative in the euphoric era after the Gulf war ended, saying he wanted to use the "window of opportunity" for peace that the allied victory offered.

He insisted on Thursday that

opportunity is still available, despite the fact that two critical players, Israel and Syria, have maintained hardline positions on fundamental issues like a United Nations role in any peace conference. Syria wants a significant U.N. role while Israel opposes it.

Some analysts see hints of new reasons for optimism. "Bush is not a fool and Baker is not a fool," one senior official told Reuters. "They must think there is something that they can continue working with."

This official said that if the time comes when Bush and Baker conclude they have hit a brick wall in the peace process, they will end their efforts. "They are not afraid to do that," he said.

Adam Garfinkle of Philadelphia's foreign policy re-

search institute believes Baker is wasting precious time if he undertakes another high-profile trip to the region and pursues the peace conference proposal.

"Ever since mid-March the secretary and his aides have been spending an excruciating amount of time tilting at the Arab-Israeli windmill when there are other things concerning Gulf security and the Soviet Union" that need that attention and are likely to produce more results, Garfinkle said.

But Charles William Maynes, editor of foreign policy magazine, disagrees. "It would be a great humiliation for Bush to concede defeat" now on this issue, Maynes said.

"We're supposed to be running the world now, the only superpower. The president en-

joys domestic popularity and enormous international respect. If he stubs his toe on the first serious obstacle in his way, it doesn't look very good."

Maynes said that at some point the United States is going to have to replace persuasion with pressure — and ultimately money — to secure a Mideast deal as Washington did a decade ago when it promised Israel and Egypt billions of dollars in aid to get the Camp David peace accords.

Maynes contends Bush has maximum leverage now. To handle an expected influx of Soviet Jews in the next five years, he says, Israel needs upwards of \$60 billion, some of which is expected to come from the United States and some from Europeans at U.S. urging.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Finnish expert joins Iraq weapons monitoring team

HELSINKI (R) — A Finnish specialist in detecting traces of chemical weapons has been appointed to a United Nations group monitoring Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the foreign ministry said. Marjatta Rautio, head of the Finnish project on the verification of chemical weapons, joins a commission set up under the Security Council's Gulf war ceasefire resolution which required the destruction or removal of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons. Rautio's project, based at Helsinki University, has worked for more than 17 years on banned chemicals and ways of detecting the traces that nerve gases leave in the air, soil and water.

A hundred Kurdish refugees treated for cholera

PARIS (R) — A hundred Kurds at the Turkish refugee camp of Cukurca have been treated for cholera in the past week, an international medical charity said on Friday. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Doctor Philippe Biberson said samples analysed in Paris had confirmed the presence of cholera, and doctors in the mountain camp were also treating several patients for suspected typhoid. "Inevitably we're going to see cases of typhoid. There's the whole spectrum of intestinal infections at Cukurca," he said. Biberson said MSF had set up a centre apart from the camp to cope with the cholera outbreak and doctors were destroying human waste to prevent the infection spreading. He said conditions in the camp, home to an estimated 70,000 refugees, deteriorated over the last two days as heavy rain swept mud and excrement across the slopes. "American marines have been digging latrines and trying to improve sanitation at Cukurca. But it's no use — the only solution is to move the refugees from that site," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Cartoons
18:15 L'ecole de Fars
19:00 News in French
19:15 Stoaigame
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mother and Son
21:10 All our Children
22:00 News in English
22:30 Paradise

PRAYER TIMES
04:16 Fajr
05:42 Sunrise
12:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:23 Maghrib
20:49 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Safad, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637385
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624900
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bullish supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 12 / 29
Aqaba 20 / 35
Dhaher 12 / 31
Jordan Valley 18 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khaloud Klob 826919
Dr. Muzair Al Quraishi 782528
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 710203
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 788336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nafroth pharmacy 636672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmoucin pharmacy 637660
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Isam Al Saleh 1-1
Al Shamsa pharmacy 278525

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 874667
Complaints 874667
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information

ZARQA:
Dr. Alid Ghazal 1-1
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
(directory assistance) 121
Hussein Medical Centre 81381302
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642410
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642410
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmoucin 661714
Shmoucin Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645645
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672749

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381302
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642410
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642410
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmoucin 661714
Shmoucin Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645645
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672749
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641666
Italian, Al-Mahajra 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7710103
Army, Marks 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09991071
Jho Sina Hospital 09986732
IBRID:
Princess Basma Hospital 021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 10217275
Jho Al Nafes Hospital 021247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 0813300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:15 Jeddah (RJ)
18:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:55 London, Brussels (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:40 Tripoli (LN)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
20:15 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 Dhahran (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Bangkok, Singapore (RJ)
01:00 Jeddah, Sana (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:40 Tripoli (LN)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 850 / 750
Banana 300 / 450
Banana (Mekammar) 450 / 400
Beans 540 / 480
Broad beans 380 / 320
Cabbage 160 / 120
Carrot 260 / 200
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 400 / 350
Dates 1000 / 900
Eggplant 330 / 220
Garlic 380 / 320
Grapefruit 250 / 200
Lemon 300 / 250
Lettuce (per one) 120 / 70
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 210 / 170
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Onion (green) 170 / 120
Orange 270 / 200
Pepper (hot) 220 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 220 / 160
Potato 270 / 220
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 450 / 350
Spinach 140 / 100
Tomatoes 400 / 350

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1991

AACO meeting tackles airport services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has participated in an annual conference on airport services organised in Damascus by the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO).

Means of developing ground services at Arab airports by foreign and regional companies was among the main topics discussed at the meeting held in the past week, according to Akel Biltaji, RJ vice president for ground services who returned to Amman after chairing the conference that lasted three days.

All the Arab airlines were represented at the meeting, said Mr. Biltaji, and the participants also focused attention on coordinating ground services at the airports with national civil aviation authorities and departments that deal with health, passports, customs and security matters.

Mr. Biltaji said these departments should be asked to raise their standard.

Another topic for discussion was means of ensuring facilities for passengers at the airport and ensuring easy flow of air freight and air mail operations. Mr. Biltaji said.

The RJ delegation to the meeting grouped two senior RJ officials in addition to Mr. Biltaji who will now report to the AACO General Assembly meeting to be convened in Tripoli, Libya, later this month.

APC plans to boost production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has embarked on an ambitious plan to boost its production to 2.2 million tonnes by the year 1995, up from the present 1.4 million, but the programme will be implemented in two stages, according to APC Director General Ali Ensour.

The two stages entail the introduction of two production lines with a total annual capacity of 400,000 tonnes each. Mr. Ensour said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the first stage would be implemented between 1991 and 1993 while the second one can be completed by the year 1995.

Mr. Ensour estimated the cost of the first expansion stage at \$100 million which, he said, will come in the form of loans from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.

"The government is giving due attention to chemical industries based on the Dead Sea salts and has contracted three consultancy firms to conduct feasibility studies. These firms have completed the first phase of the study which was debated last month to pave the way for the second and final phase which would be completed by the end of this year," Mr. Ensour added.

He said that a plan for financing the project, which envisages the production of sodium carbonate, magnesium and other products will be implemented in the coming year.

Mr. Ensour said that APC had realised a net profit of JD 39.5 million in 1990 and would soon distribute dividends to the shareholders.

The APC last year sold nearly 85 per cent of its total production to Asian countries with India acquiring the biggest part of nearly 500,000 tonnes annually, followed by China with 400,000 tonnes.

Other countries which import Jordanian potash are Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan. Mr. Ensour said that up to 20 per cent of the APC production goes to countries west of Suez, like those in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

France, Italy and Brazil are the main importers among these countries, he added.

The APC, which was established in 1956, has its plants at a site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea which provides the raw materials for its products. The company is shared by Jordan, which owns 54 per cent of its capital, along with Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Bank.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh Saturday distributes awards to traffic police officers on World Traffic Day (Petra photo)

Estimates put Jordan's 1990 economic losses from road accidents at JD 40m

Jordan marks World Traffic Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday marked World Traffic Day with a celebration held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman, distribution of awards to those with remarkable services in road safety matters, and a parade of vehicles with posters calling public attention to the increased dangers on the roads.

"By observing World Traffic Day, Jordan stresses the value of life and underlines the need for further caution on the roads to protect man and property," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh in an address at the celebration.

"A vehicle is a scientific product of our modern age and has been manufactured to give us convenience and facilitate our work if it is used with care and caution, but the vehicle can become a source of danger to all the members of the public when drivers tend to speed and to drive rashly and recklessly," Mr. Masadeh said.

He said that the government had been endeavouring to spread awareness among the public about the safety on the roads in a bid to safeguard lives and protect property.

Addressing the meeting, organised by the Public Security Department (PSD), was Dr. Zuhair Malhas, former health minister and president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA), who referred to the enormous loss in life and property resulting from road accidents each year.

The road accidents, he said, are caused by the driver, the car or the condition of the road, but statistics have shown that 95 per cent of all accidents are due to human error.

Dr. Malhas said that estimates put Jordan's economic losses from road accidents last year at JD 40 million. "The losses cover loss of vehicles, the purchase of spare parts and loss of working days which can otherwise be productive," he explained.

Director of the PSD's Licensing Department Brigadier Awni Mismar said that by observing World Traffic Day, Jordan is focusing the light on the volume of losses resulting from road accidents so that it can serve as an incentive for people to exert efforts towards reducing them.

The total number of registered road accidents in the past year, he

said, stood 17,836. The accidents were responsible for the death of 375 people and the injury of 10,464 others.

Brig. Mismar said that the number of accidents last year was by 500 less than those of 1989, but the number of dead and injured was higher.

To deal with the danger, Brig. Mismar said, all members of the society as well as traffic police should be involved in meaningful cooperation and should direct their attention to promoting safety on the roads.

Mr. Masadeh distributed token gifts to veteran traffic policemen, representatives of voluntary institutions and information services who exerted distinguished efforts to spread awareness on the necessity of safe driving.

Mr. Masadeh later inspected an exhibition of drawings by school students depicting road accidents and conditions on the roads in general.

Later, a parade of vehicles with posters warning of the dangers on the road passed in front of the Royal Cultural Centre and through various main streets of the capital.



MAYOR OPENS EXHIBITION: Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat Saturday opens the annual exhibition of works by students of engineering professions and fine arts at Al Khawarizmi Community College in Amman. The four-day exhibition displays paintings,

interior design, architectural models of houses and buildings, and photographs. Taking part in the exhibition are the college's departments of fine arts, interior design, television production and mechanical engineering.

Abdul Wahab

(Continued from page 1)
it before the haj began in June.

Ben Ali pays tribute

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali paid tribute Saturday to the late Abdul Wahab. Ben Ali had visited the composer during a state visit to Egypt in March 1990.

In a message of condolences to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Ben Ali, known to be a great admirer, said Abdul Wahab was "one of masters of contemporary Arab culture" and he was deeply shocked by his death.

Hawri condoles

Lebanese President Elias Hawri also sent a cable of condolences to President Mubarak, Egypt's Middle East News Agency MENA reported.

"Mohammad Abdul Wahab, who is missed by Lebanon as he is missed by Egypt and all the Arabs, will remain a lantern that would be followed by coming generations," the cable said.

Industrialists complain policy on foreign workers affects productivity

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government crackdown on foreign workers in the Kingdom, in the course of organising the Jordanian labour market, has adversely affected the Jordanian industry, and, in some cases, production at a number of factories has dropped by 30 per cent, according to Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

"The Labour Ministry's decision to reduce the number of foreign workers in Jordan came at a time when the country was in bad need of foreign workers in order to guarantee production and exports," said Abu Hassan at a meeting attended by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi and representatives of the Jordanian industrial sector.

Discussion dwelt on the need to provide for the leather, weaving and construction industries in Jordan.

"Despite the fact that Jordanian industrialists are showing a greater measure of cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, and are trying to substitute foreign

labourers with Jordanian workers, the industrial sector is in need of the foreign workers to survive at least for the time being," Abu Hassan said.

According to Abu Hassan, the industrial sector in Jordan is in need of foreign workers because there are not enough Jordanian technicians to take over from the foreigners. "Jordanian youth are still shunning work in industry as they prefer to have clerical work in the offices," Abu Hassan said.

Vocational training programmes in certain fields do not cope with the industrial needs and certain industries require special skills lacking in Jordan, according to Abu Hassan.

Abu Hassan proposed the formation of a joint committee, made up of officials from the Ministry of Labour and the Vocational Training Corporation as well as the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, to deal with problems resulting from shortages of local skilled workers.

Abu Hassan said that the Amman Chamber of Industry had

embarked on preparing a plan to set up a specialised institute to offer industrial training, to serve as a back-up to the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), and to provide the labour market with its needs of skilled workers, especially in the leather and weaving industries.

He said that the chamber had already contacted international organisations, through the Ministry of Planning, to support this enterprise.

According to latest government statistics, 160,000 foreign workers are now employed in Jordan most of them illegally and at least 100,000 Jordanians are unemployed and seeking work.

Minister of Labour discussed the unemployment issue at a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran last week and the prime minister stressed the need for the ministry to give priority to employment to Jordanian citizens.

Mr. Dughmi told Abu Hassan that the crackdown on the foreign workers was motivated by the need to deal drastically with the

unemployment problem in Jordan.

He said that was a national issue requiring cooperation from all sides, including the VTC, which has now embarked on intensive programmes to provide training in various skills to the Jordanian job seekers.

Mr. Dughmi said he blamed local employers who still gave priority to the non-Jordanian workers and those who violated the Ministry of Labour's laws and regulations.

Mr. Dughmi used the Labour Day anniversary, on May 1, to encourage Jordanian job-seekers to accept available posts left vacant by the non-Jordanian workers so as to earn a decent living.

The VTC, he said, was expanding its programmes and enlisting help from local industries to recruit and train Jordanians to take up various jobs.

Mr. Dughmi said he supported Abu Hassan's idea of forming a joint committee to oversee the problem of shortage of Jordanian workers and the country's needs of foreign labour.

RSS issues study on rural development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Economic Research Centre has issued a study entitled "Rural Development and its Administration in Jordan."

The study, covered in six chapters, sheds light on services, projects, and administrative development in the Jordanian countryside.

The first chapter defines countryside development and the characteristics of the agricultural sector in Jordan.

The second chapter deals with the administrative and legal characteristics of the Jordanian countryside.

The third and fourth chapters include an analysis of services and productive projects in the countryside, as well as the role of public and private institutions in the development of countryside. The fifth chapter discusses the problems and impediments facing the development process in the countryside.

Finally, the sixth chapter presents recommendations reached in the study to activate the development process in countryside.

The study was based on a field survey of an arbitrarily selected sample comprising fifty municipalities in various rural areas in the Kingdom. It was also based on secondary information obtained from different sources as well as previous practical and theoretical studies in this field.

Director of RSS Economic Research Centre Dr. Ahmad Qasem Al Ahmad noted that this study complied with the broad lines of the planning policy currently adopted by the government.

Future projects will result in curtailing emigration from the countryside to the city, and enhancing the endeavour designed to encourage the establishment of productive projects in the countryside.

Such projects aim at providing residents with their basic needs of commodities and services as well as supplying the city with the surplus quantities of the produce of the rural areas.

It is noteworthy that Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany contributed to financing the project in order to promote scientific research.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday meets National College students involved in voluntary work in Zahran district (Petra photo)

Premier says voluntary work helps build up society

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Saturday that voluntary work should be encouraged at all levels, especially among students of schools and colleges, and the process of building up the society should be "infused in the hearts of the young generation."

"Universalising the voluntary service can best come about through the schools, which are attended now by at least one third of the Jordanian population," said the prime minister during a meeting with students from the National College involved in

weeding and removing grass in Zahran district.

"A great deal of benefit would come from students who form a big part of Jordan's society if they embark for at least one day a year voluntary, useful work for their community in various regions of Jordan," the prime minister said.

Mr. Badran thanked all citizens offering voluntary service to protect the environment from pollution.

A number of students involved in the work in Zahran district said in a statement that their work was a manifestation of the true sense

of national belonging.

They called on all schools to encourage students to follow their example so as to keep the country clean and tidy.

The prime minister was accompanied by Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat and senior officials at the Amman Municipality as well as teachers at the National College.

The teachers said that the voluntary work initiated by their institution was a contribution towards protecting the environment in Jordan.

Ruseifa pond stirs controversy

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ruseifa Municipality is pursuing serious efforts to ensure safety in and around a large pool of water adjoining the Pepsi Cola Factory near Ruseifa, known as the Pepsi Cola pond, according to Ruseifa Mayor Mousa Al Saad.

He said in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that the Pepsi Cola company was encouraged to keep pumping water to the pond so that it won't be turned into a swamp infested by insects and the municipality was constantly spraying the area with a insecticides because the pond

lies within a residential district. Furthermore, the mayor said, the pond has been surrounded by an iron fence to prevent people from drowning.

A two-kilometre canal of water runs from the company to the pond which is located near an urban development housing estate that dumps waste into the pond.

According to Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki, a special public health committee set up last year has embarked on a project of planting trees around and near the pond, benefiting from the water on the one hand and with the purpose of greening the district on the other.

"Due to these measures, the pond, which was a threat to public life in the past, is now a safe place," he noted.

Mr. Saad said that the water coming out from the Pepsi company was safe as it was used to wash bottles only. The municipality, he said, has appointed guards and watchmen to ensure that all measures for improving the environment around the pond are being observed.

Amman municipality has a different view from that of Ruseifa Municipality.

Dr. Hussein Zaki, the deputy mayor, said that the pond, which is located in a low-lying area, can easily be covered with soil.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Yemen to discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Mazhar Abdullah Al Su'ei will arrive in Amman Sunday on a several-day visit to Jordan. Dr. Su'ei will hold talks with officials at the ministries of energy and mineral resources and planning on ways of enhancing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of energy and mineral resources.

Abu Qoura to attend Damascus talks

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, who is also chairman of the Permanent Committee of the International Red Cross, will take part in the meetings of the executive council of the Arab Red Crescent Societies due to start in Damascus, Syria, next Thursday. The council is scheduled to discuss ways to unify the actions of Arab societies in international humanitarian works and issues listed on the agenda of the Red Cross and Red Crescent conference to be held in Budapest in November.

NAF aids 472 needy families

IRBID (Petra) — The number of needy families which benefitted from aids granted by the National Aid Fund (NAF) in Bani Kanana district during the past four months reached 472, according to the director of NAF offices in the district, Mashari Irsan. Mr. Irsan said that the families received JD 9,673 in periodical aid instalments. He said four rehabilitation projects

were carried out by NAF in the district during the past four months, with a total cost of JD 6,700. The number of rehabilitation projects currently existing in the district, he said, stands at 29, with a total cost of JD 23,935.

Mayor inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat Saturday opened the first spring market exhibition at the Jordanian Car Trading Company. The exhibition, in which 70 Jordanian industrial companies are taking part, displays furniture, home appliances, cosmetics, foodstuffs, detergents, clothes, children's toys, accessories, plants, ornaments and vegetables. The exhibition runs through July.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shamsan Foundation (opens at 6 p.m.)

FILM

- Russian film entitled "The Torpedo Boat" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Traffic dilemma revisited

SINCE Jordan's commemoration of Labour Day last year, there were over 18,000 traffic accidents causing the death of no less than 375 people and injury to about 10,000. The economic cost of this alarming situation has been conservatively put at JD 40 millions. Thus the ceremonial celebrations of Traffic Day, year in and year out, have obviously failed to put an end to the continuing carnage on the roads and highways of the country. Clearly something basic is amiss in all the efforts that have been and are being exerted to halt this terrible human tragedy and the economic cost of the death and mayhems that are caused by it across the length and width of the Kingdom. Granted it is difficult to single out the real culprits in this grave crisis, something is clearly wrong with the ways and means deployed thus far in addressing traffic accidents in Jordan. In broad terms, what Jordanians, private citizens or public officials, need to develop is a culture for safe driving. This kind of proposed culture requires the cooperation of not only drivers of cars but also those in charge of safeguarding the lives of the people whether in or outside vehicles by enforcing traffic rules and regulations. There are a multiplicity of factors that in their cumulative sense are contributing to the unacceptable level of road accidents. For some it is the road conditions. For others it is the driving habits of citizens. Still others would place the blame on the traffic police who are not necessarily doing their duty in enforcing the law. Can we be so shocked to see the stop signs so totally ignored by our drivers, for example? Even traffic lights are not immune from abuse whenever drivers feel that the eyes of the police are elsewhere, such as dishing out parking tickets or speeding tickets in their favourite hangouts. The moral of the traffic violations story in Jordan is that in fact it is everybody's fault that we still have traffic crisis. It is the fault of the drivers, the police, the road conditions and every other parameter involved in the problem. What is required therefore is a comprehensive campaign that encompasses all these dimensions into one integrated plan. Starting with the police, they are asked to target areas of traffic violations that would decrease accidents rather than go after violations that would simply reap the state a windfall. In this vein, stop signs, traffic lights, sticking to lanes, speeding and reckless driving habits are all matters that deserve high priority attention. On the part of the drivers, they need to learn safe and courteous driving habits on the top of which is respect for traffic rules, driving defensively when necessary, and above all driving courteously by giving way to other drivers, and so on.

Our children also require special attention. It is shocking that there are no regulations on children passengers in motor vehicles. At a time when practically the entire world has placed restrictions on where children may be seated safely (never in the front seat, and the need to use special harnesses for infant passengers), Jordan has yet to move in that direction.

In short, the license to drive must go beyond the ability to do so mechanically. Likewise the authority to regulate driving requires more than dishing out parking tickets for the least priority violations, and forgetting in the process about the real causes of the problem. An integrated policy needs to be formulated and adopted for the purpose of realising safe driving in the country. Without it the battle against traffic accidents will never be won.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE picture emerging from James Baker's tours in the Middle East is rather puzzling to the Arabs, and can lead to nowhere, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in its editorial Saturday. President Bush announced that he was not pessimistic about Baker's mission yet he believed that there was no need to send Baker back to the region to pursue his efforts which, he said, have achieved "progress", noted the paper. The Arabs have heard Washington scolding the Israelis of obstructing the peace process through their settlements on Arab land, but the Arabs have just heard also U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announcing that U.S. Israeli reactions are at their best, and that he planned to visit Israel soon to discuss development of Israel's missiles, the paper continued. These manoeuvres coincided with an announcement by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd that there was a clear difference between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East question, prompting us to believe that the major powers differentiate between world problems when it comes to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy, the paper pointed out. This throws further ambiguity on the situation as the Arabs do not see a single step of real progress to resolve their problem. Only through concerted Arab efforts and collective action can the peace process be stimulated and the international legitimacy implemented, said the paper. The Arabs should not forget that the western powers now hold their golden opportunity for imposing their total hegemony on their nation.

We did not bet on America's so-called peace efforts which President Bush claimed were based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and we never believed in the shuttle diplomacy adopted by James Baker to pursue such efforts, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday. The paper said it is not a matter of visits and tours of the region or a declaration in Washington about intention to work for peace as long as the efforts end up on the shelves of the Israeli government which refuses all bids to achieve peace. The true intentions of Washington can best be tested by the seriousness of the U.S. administration to exercise real pressure on the Israeli government to end its intransigence and its arrogance and refusal to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, noted the paper. We want to see serious efforts in word and deed equal to those exercised against Iraq to force it out of Kuwait, and we want to see Israel respecting the international legitimacy, the paper continued. It said that no one is surprised to see Israel showing further intransigence, but we are dismayed to see the U.S. administration adopting double standards in its dealings with the international legitimacy, the paper said.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Self-sufficiency should be the national goal

IT is not meaningful for the patriotic movement in Jordan to raise its voice against the policies and designs of this foreign power or that, and against the positions taken by this Arab regime or that, to find at the end of the day that Jordan badly needs the goodwill of those powers and regimes, and their economic and financial assistance to secure its own survival and be able to satisfy the basic needs of the people and the economy.

In order to make the voice of anger more audible and credible, Jordan should first raise the degree of its economic self-sufficiency without further delay. Jordan should not be under the mercy of this Arab regime or that foreign power. The well-being of its public should not depend wholly on the good intentions of external forces, which we might disagree with their objectives, policies or orientation.

Economic independence and self-sufficiency are therefore not only economic and financial objectives, to be left to the ministries of finance and planning to take care of, they are political and national goals as well.

Self-sufficiency is by no means the isolation and closure of the borders, on the assumption that we can produce all that we need without importation. This objective is impossible for a small country like Jordan. It does not go with the modern trend of interdependence among countries on equal footing.

Self-sufficiency is a sort of balance between exports and imports in the balance of trade, a reasonable balance between revenues and expenditure in the budget, and an acceptable balance between payments and receipts in the balance of payments, without having to borrow in excess of repayments of old debts in order to make ends meet.

This national ambitious target is not easy, and could not be reached overnight, but it is not impossible to achieve if we have the political and national will, and if we resign ourselves to accepting the hardships and sacrifices that such achievement takes. The road may be long, but what counts is to start the march in the right direction towards a defined target.

After the economic crisis of 1988, Jordan realised that it cannot go on forever borrowing time and money. The government found itself obliged to undergo a strict IMF programme for economic adjustment, in order to reduce the deficits and narrow imbalances, and to live within our own means.

After 15 months of successful adjustment, and on Aug. 2, 1990, the Gulf crisis erupted. It blew up many things, among them the IMF programme, and the re-scheduling agreements which were reached with official creditors within the framework of the Paris Club, and with commercial creditors in the framework of the London Club.

Now Jordan finds itself with no adjustment programme, nor a

development programme. The only form of macro — planning in existence is the annual budget, which is hardly a plan at all. The IMF is reportedly hesitant to help in formulating a new adjustment programme for Jordan because planning is almost impossible in an environment of absolute uncertainty regarding future prospects of Arab aid, expatriates remittances, export markets, economic sanctions against Iraq and the possible return of some expatriates and their families to the country at the wrong time.

Now is the time for Jordan to take its future in its own hands. Why should we wait until the IMF tells us what direction our economy should take, leaving the ship in the meanwhile to sail blindly with the winds, hoping to find ourselves miraculously on the safe shore. If the Jordanian economy really needs to be adjusted and reformed in order to achieve more self-sufficiency and rid itself from deficits, why should not we take up the job ourselves and formulate our national adjustment programme that the IMF could not refuse.

Self-sufficiency, and correction of distortions and deficits are no more technical issues to be left to economists. They should be at the top of the political and national agenda. Adjustment calls for lots of difficult decisions which should be taken in full participation of the people, and the enlightened national movement, which used to criticise the IMF programme without coming up with a better alternative.

By Dr. Fahed Al-Fanek

Arab unity remains a dream

By Zina Hemady
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Arabs, talking of unity once again, papering over deep rifts created by the Gulf war along with animosities that have lingered for centuries.

But Arab unity remains a distant dream, analysts say, and unlikely while power elites govern almost every Arab country and the gap between rich and poor Arabs remains wide.

"After every catastrophe, the Arabs tend to come back trying to lick their wounds," said Tahseen Bashir, a political scientist. "They will try to kiss and make up, but this isn't enough. It's not serious."

Bashir knows about Arab disunity. He was a spokesman for President Anwar Sadat, whose trip to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 brought peace between Egypt and Israel. It also led to 10 years of ostracism for Egypt, the most populous Arab country, and was the main reason for Sadat's assassination in 1981.

Arab leaders customarily quarrel while trying to maintain an image of unity and fraternity, but the delicate balance collapsed and the Arab World split when Iraq seized Kuwait on Aug. 2 in a dispute over land, money and oil.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria led the Arab campaign against Iraq and joined the 33-nation coalition that drove its forces from Kuwait. Jordan, Sudan, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation opposed foreign intervention and called for an Arab solution.

After Iraq was defeated, Arab leaders began trying to mend fences.

The Arab League, which embraces Arab states from the Atlantic to the Gulf, met in Cairo in March.

It was a routine, low-level meeting, significant only because nobody boycotted it, not even Iraq. It was the first time all 21 members sat together since the invasion.

In his opening address, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid of Egypt said the Arabs had entered a time of building confidence in each other as a prelude to "constant, effective and real Arab unity."

Seven nations founded the Arab league in 1945 and it now has 21 members. The charter does not mention unity, but describes the league's purpose as "the strengthening of relations among the member states ... in order to achieve cooperation among them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty."

Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt was the first modern Arab leader to preach unity. He succeeded in merging Egypt and Syria into the United Arab Republic in 1958, but the Syrians soon complained of domination by Nasser and the union crumbled in three years.

Bashir and other analysts say the Middle East will be crisis-prone as long as Arab leaders run their countries as one-man shows and that unity, to which all give lip service, will remain virtually impossible.

"Many Arab regimes are personal regimes," Bashir said. "Many leaders tend to think of the state as their baby. The citizens don't have a say." "One day they agree on unity with passion," he said of the leaders. "The next day they agree on disunity with passion."

Many Arabs blame their woes on colonialism. During

World War I, France and Britain promised to reward Arab military help against the Ottoman Turks with independence. The Arabs helped, the Ottomans fell, but the colonial powers divided the Arab heartland among themselves.

Earl Sullivan, a specialist in Arab affairs at American University in Cairo, said artificial borders drawn by colonial powers caused problems, but the most divisive issues are rooted in conflicting Arab interests.

Most Arab countries have no real parliamentary representation or separation of powers. Some even lack constitutions, and the state is identified with the ruler.

"Both the political tradition of the Middle East and the prescription of Islam require the Arab masses to pay unquestioning obedience to the ruler set above them," historian John B. Kelly wrote in the Spectator, a British magazine.

Even countries like Egypt, Jordan and Algeria, with parliaments and opposition parties, are far from fully representative.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, among the most progressive Arab leaders, has un-

questioned personal authority over foreign policy. When he sent more than 38,000 soldiers to the anti-Iraq coalition, only a few objections were heard from the opposition.

Mubarak ostensibly leaves domestic policy to his government, but it unflinchingly does his bidding. His National Democratic party holds 80 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Analysts argue that, because political unity will be difficult to achieve, the move towards integration should begin with economic cooperation.

Sullivan said new Arab economic groups pave the way for integration by encouraging inter-Arab trade, currently negligible. He cited the Arab Maghreb Union, formed in 1989, which includes Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania.

"One of the first principles is that the states have to border each other so as to minimize problems," Sullivan said.

Saadaddin Ibrahim, a sociologist, sees economics as divisive under current conditions. The disparity between rich oil states, with few people, and populous but poor nations remains a major obstacle, he said.

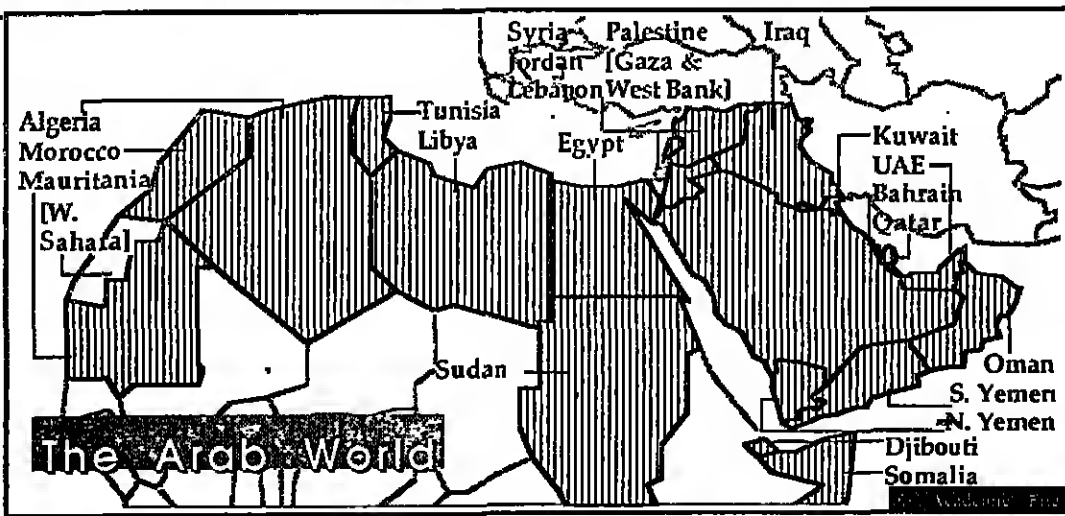
"The super-rich do not find much in the way of common economic ground with the very poor," Ibrahim said. "Therefore, they prefer not to deal with them, but to deal with other rich countries. This will create a psychological gap and socio-economic gap" between rich and poor Arabs.

He said poor Arabs are trapped between financial dependence on their rich cousins and resentment of them, thus producing a potential source of instability, violence and frustration.

Ibrahim argues, however, that the Arabs should be able to integrate nations with disparate incomes just as the Europeans did. Much of the process, he said, is a matter of trade-offs between countries with surplus manpower, like Egypt, and those with extra capital, like the Gulf countries.

Walid Kazizha, a political scientist and professor of economics, said that sort of cooperation would not come soon.

"Those who have money, why do they want to share it with poorer countries?" he asked. Kazizha also said they prefer to invest in Europe because it is safer.



Comments on prospects for unity

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Here are comments by some prominent Arabs on possible unity.

Walid Arab Hashem
Economics Department
King Abdul Aziz University
Saudi Arabia

Arab unity is a dream that has fascinated and aroused millions of Arabs. On the surface this dream is quite viable, if not inevitable.

This area can easily form a strong economic bloc producing most of its needs from its abundance of labour, oil, fertile land and other resources. This mass of land is also rich with history, culture and political importance.

Coming together, the Arabs will command the respect and honour which they value so much. Arabs, despite all their differences — and they differ even on what makes an Arab — are very proud people. It is this pride in their identity that is perhaps the strongest reason for the viability of Arab unity.

Fakhri Kawar
Jordanian Parliament

The Arab people want unity, but the regimes are blocking the people's will. Leaders want to protect their seats of power and their acquired privileges.

I think that absolute unity between Arab states is very difficult to achieve at this time in light of the standing situation in this part of the world.

Arab unity will not happen unless democracy is rooted in all Arab states. Effectively, I'm saying we have to achieve regional democracy in the

separate states before aiming for a collective Arab unity.

Hassan Al Akim
Political Science Department
University of United Arab Emirates

Despite the common inherited factors, Arab unity is an Arab dream that cannot come true. The most important (reason) is that the Arab governments are self-imposed (and) non-elected, and hence not accountable to the Arab masses.

This is enhanced by the fact that, (in) the post-colonial era, independence, national identity, sovereignty and national boundaries — new phenomena — came to be associated with a greater part of the new Arab generations' mentality, making regionalism far stronger than pan-Arabism.

Abdul Rahman Al Shobaili
Deputy Minister
Saudi Ministry of Higher Education

Arab unity was a dream and objective, but it was never expected soon. The Gulf crisis added to the pessimistic view that such unity will be now even more impossible.

The Gulf problem has introduced a very severe "trust crisis," at least between the Gulf states and some other Arab countries.

The only form of Arab unity I can see is perhaps regional, such as among some Gulf Cooperation Council states ... or perhaps in the case of Palestine and Jordan, or in a form of economic regional cooperation

such as the Maghreb states.

Al Baki Hermasani
Sociology Department
Tunis University

Before the Gulf war, the whole regional system, including the Arab League, was showing signs of exhaustion, if not collapse. Since then, the Gulf crisis and the war have dramatically divided the Arab World: its governments, its press, its countries.

Instead of talking about Arab unity, we should be talking about the Latin Americanisation of the Arab World and the return of the area to some kind of imperialistic rule.

Certain things have happened, new cleavages have appeared that have to be taken into the picture. For the time being, Arab unity is off.

Mona Makram Ebeid
Arab Studies
American University in Cairo

To propagate regional unity at a time when the Middle East is riven by the most bitter antagonisms may carry the flavour of romantic idealism.

Yet it is my opinion that the current crisis has the dimension of a cataclysm that turns previous beliefs and assumptions upside down.

In this perspective, the emergence of a movement that would seek to construct regional unity on a liberal democratic basis is by no means inconceivable. The first step is political reconciliation within the aim of regional cooperation and economic development.

Palestinians need to take advantage of emerging principles

By Mamdouh Aker

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM During nearly 40 days in solitary confinement in an Israeli prison, I thought about where we Palestinians are as a people and where we are heading in the post-Gulf war Middle East.

While we might feel that the Israeli security fears are exaggerated, we have to understand Jewish history, especially the Holocaust's effects on the Jewish psyche. We have to deal seriously with the Israelis' security concerns in a manner acceptable to the norms of relations between peoples and states.

As bad as the war's outcome has been for our demands of statehood and for PLO representation, we can still take advantage of the moral principles that have emerged. The supremacy of international law and the U.N. Security Council can be helpful tools for Palestinians.

The world has talked about the Kurds' rights to determine their own future. It is certainly time that the U.S. and Israel accept Palestinian self-determination.

Such a pronouncement — a modern-day Balfour Declaration, which created Israel — need not require immediate implementation. As proof of Palestinians' commitment to peace and a political settlement, we might be ready to have our rights carried out in stages. The declaration itself would ease our fears that some Israeli elements want to drive Palestinians across the Jordan River, if not to keep us under the Israeli occupation army's domination forever. It would be a breakthrough if the Israelis stopped calling us "residents" and instead recognised our legitimate national rights.

This recognition means that the Jewish settlement campaign must end. Every time I

drive from Jerusalem to Nabulus, on the West Bank, to work or see my family, I am shocked at how fast the colonies are expanding. Settlements built on Arab land for exclusive use by Jews are not only an obstacle to peace but also illegal, as former President Jimmy Carter described them. It is time that President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker tell the Israelis in no uncertain terms that settlement — building in the occupied territories — can't continue while all parties are seeking lasting peace.

Nor should the details of who would represent the Palestinians be an obstacle to talks. This can be solved by elections. I am sure that Palestinians, in the occupied territories and in exile, would accept a U.N.-sponsored vote for their leaders. A fair election would emphasise our commitment to democracy as spelled out in our 1988 declaration of independence.

I am sure elections would prove the depth of support for the PLO and thus help the Israelis come to terms with the PLO. In that case, any agreement would include concessions only the PLO could sign on behalf of all Palestinians. Should the Palestinians and Israelis agree on any terms, then, I would think the Israelis would demand that the PLO be the group to sign. And only the PLO could deliver such a deal if it were meant both to oblige the Palestinian people and achieve a lasting settlement to the conflict.

Mamdouh Aker is a Palestinian surgeon. He was held by the Israelis for questioning about aiding the Palestinian resistance, but was released on bail without charge on April 7 — The article is reprinted from the New York Times.

LETTERS

New World Order

To the Editor:

AT the beginning was the word. It was not an empty one, yet it did not reveal any concrete message. But it worked like a drug. It gave hopes, dreams, illusions, visions — e.g. about a new order for the world.

Now, some months, a lot of U.S.-U.N. resolutions, and a bloody war later, the message is there. We can no longer dream about the new order for the world, we have to deal with the order of the new world. The same order that pushed the Indian Nation into the Indian Reservation (so much for the proper treatment of minorities) is now reaching out for the Arab Nation.

The word has a message, and the message is clear.

It spells like this:

N obody
E ise
W ill win

W e
O rganise
R adical
L ong term
D estruction

O ur
R acial
D omination
E radicates
R ight

Elinor Kaiser-Mohammed
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The Iraq-Kuwait boundary: a problem outstanding

By Richard Schofield

IN ACCEPTING terms for a Gulf cease-fire laid down in U.N. Resolution 687 which was passed on 3 April, Iraq has committed itself to respect the inviolability of the boundary referred to in the Agreed Minutes signed between Iraq and Kuwait on 4 October 1963. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (Unikom), whose terms of reference were published on 5 April, will be responsible for finally delineating and demarcating the Kuwait boundary referred to in those minutes.

Unikom, which will be headed by observers from the five permanent members of the Security Council, will be required to monitor and observe developments in a demilitarised zone running along the entire length of the Kuwait-Iraq land boundary (around 160 km in length) and for 40 km along the Khor Abdullah, the strategically vital waterway linking Umm Qasr and the Khor Zubair to the waters of the Gulf and separating the Kuwaiti islands of Warba and Bubiyan from the Faw peninsula in Iraq. For the entire length of the land boundary the Unikom buffer zone will extend 10 km into Iraqi territory and 5 km into Kuwaiti territory, while the Khor Abdullah will be monitored from observation posts on both its northern (Iraqi) and southern (Kuwaiti) shores and also by aerial reconnaissance.

As an observation mission, similar to that in place on the Iran-Iraq boundary nearby to the north east, the mere presence of Unikom in the buffer zone will have to suffice to deter violations of the boundary. It possesses no authority to take any physical steps to prevent the entry of military personnel or equipment into the demilitarised zone. It is anticipated that Unikom's mission will cost \$83m for the first six months alone.

For as long as Unikom remains in place, despite its essentially passive role, the boundary is likely to remain quiet. In the medium and long term, however, presuming the eventual departure of

Unikom, there can be no guarantees that the problems of agreeing a workable boundary line, so apparently unbridgeable during the 60-year period since Iraq's admission to the League of Nations as an independent state in October 1932, will not return to seriously destabilise Kuwait-Iraq relations once more.

The claims could continue

There is a clear danger in assuming that Iraq's claims to Kuwaiti territory will disappear with a resolution of the current crisis and the removal of Saddam Hussein, if and when this occurs. In short, this unlikely, principally because Iraqi claims to Kuwaiti territory have been pursued with remarkable consistency over the last half-century, through periods of monarchy and revolutionary rule alike. Despite providing for short-term security, the ceasefire resolution and the institution of Unikom do nothing to address the basic geographical reality which has underpinned the territorial claims and demands of successive Baghdad regimes, that is Iraq's minuscule shoreline on the high sea and its long-harboured grievance at having been squeezed out of the Gulf.

Essentially beginning in 1938, Iraq claims to Kuwaiti territory have been prosecuted on two contradictory levels. Most vociferously, if only intermittently, Iraq has laid claim to the whole of Kuwait. This has occurred with varying degrees of intensity and purpose. In 1938 Iraqi Foreign Minister Al Suwaidi made rather half-hearted claims for Kuwait to be administered as an integral part of Iraqi territory as significant instability prevailed within Kuwait during the period of the Majlis movement. Early in 1958, with the institution of the Hashemite union of Iraq and Jordan, Nuri Al Said requested that Britain actively support moves for the incorporation of the Al Sabah sheikhdom within the Hashemite domain. In 1961, after displaying little interest in Kuwait for nearly three years, General Qasim dramatically resurrected Iraq's historical claim to Kuwait, while

only last year Saddam Hussein utilised such arguments to justify his conquest of the emirate.

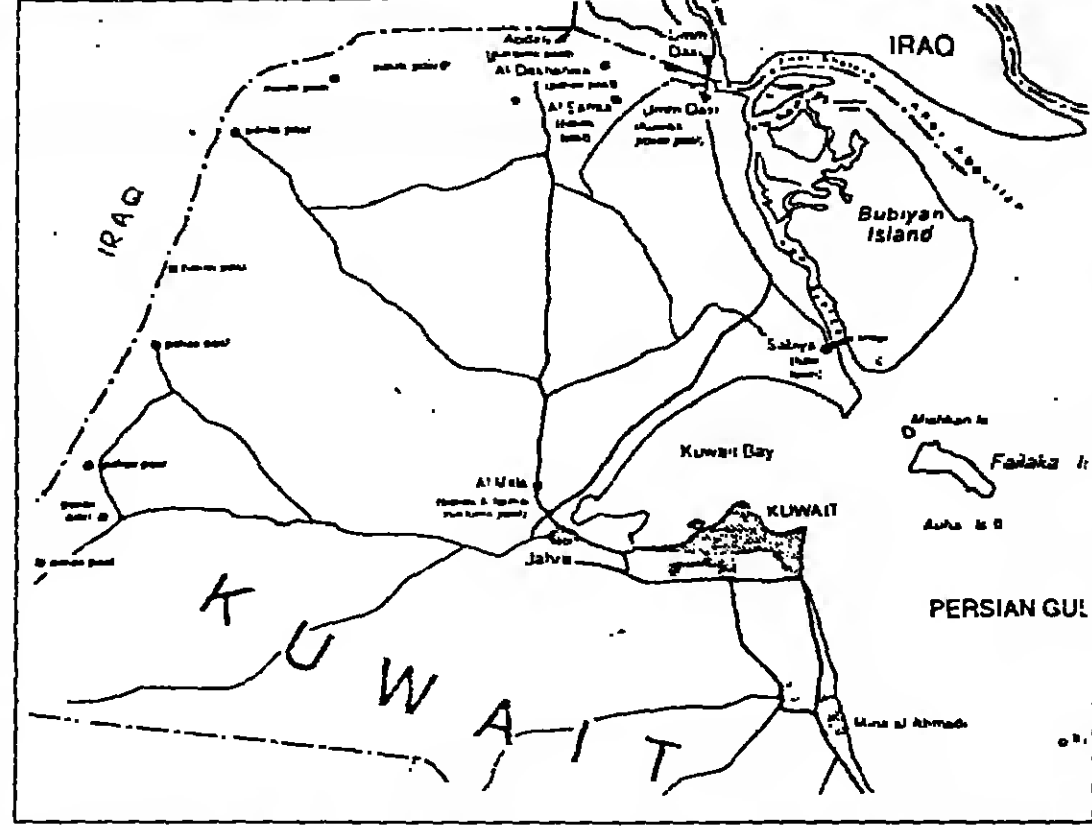
This argument is essentially historical, resting on Kuwait's incorporation within the former Ottoman province of Basra at the turn of the century. It is not difficult to rebut for historical and legal reasons. Because of its generally latent characteristics, it has been almost impossible to predict when the argument would be employed. With the exchange of ambassadors following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait in the Agreed Minutes of 1963, it seemed as though no more would be seen of the historical claim. The events of 2 August 1990 quashed this assumption and suggested that it is impossible to say for certain that the claim has disappeared for good.

Much more consistently, if certainly less dramatically, Iraq has sought changes to the existing boundary, as defined by diplomatic exchanges of 1923 and 1932 and confirmed by the Agreed Minutes of 1963, which would improve its limited access to the waters of the Gulf. Typically, Iraq has demanded the cession or lease of the strategically important islands of Warba and Bubiyan, whose Kuwaiti sovereignty has seriously impaired the development to its full potential of the Khor Zubair, an important, navigable water inlet on which is situated Umm Qasr, Iraq's second dry cargo port (its first is Basra on the Shatt Al Arab waterway), the long-disputed southernmost constituent of the Iran-Iraq boundary.

Despite signing the 1963 agreement, apparently recognising the boundary with Kuwait on its own merits, Iraq has consistently demanded satisfaction on the islands issue before agreeing to its demarcation, long sought by Kuwait. With Kuwait traditionally refusing to consider the cession of Warba until the boundary has been demarcated, a solution to the border question has long proved elusive, entrenched in this familiar impasse.

A bad boundary

There must remain doubts about



the expediency of nominating the Agreed Minutes of 1963 as the basis for the final settlement of the Kuwait-Iraq boundary. All Iraq agreed to in this document was to recognise the independence and complete sovereignty of the state of Kuwait and its boundaries as specified by the 1932 exchange of correspondence. There was no detailed description of these boundaries, nor was there a map to illustrate them.

It is often said that there is no such thing as a bad boundary, yet the definition of Kuwait-Iraq boundary in the 1932 correspondence comes mighty close. It was notoriously vague, constituting, with no alterations, the northern portion of the "Green Line" of the unratified and redundant Anglo-Ottoman Convention of 1913. It contains no more precise references to the boundary than "along the Zain" and "just south of Safwan" and for years no one knew, exactly, where the boundary ran along the ground.

For nearly two decades all that marked it was a wooden post which had been placed by the British authorities at a specified distance south of the most southerly date palm at Safwan. When the post was removed at the

beginning of the second world war, and the Iraqis then planted additional date palms south of Safwan, the original location of the boundary proved impossible to rediscover, underlining its woefully inadequate definition. It took until the end of 1951 for British to come to a final conclusion about what delimitation the 1932 correspondence had meant to introduce.

This interpretation, offered to Iraq as a basis for demarcation in December 1951, has since come to be accepted by most observers as the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. Yet it remains all too conspicuously an effort to patch up the poor definition introduced by the 1932 correspondence. However, the 1951 interpretation finds no mention in the Agreed Minutes of 1963. As a consequence the Iraqi government, by accepting Paragraph Five of the ceasefire resolution, is not bound to any one interpretation of the boundary fixed by the 1932 exchange of correspondence.

Whilst on the subject of the 1963 correspondence, it might be added that had Iraq been genuinely reconciled to the existing boundary, then there would have been provisions in the text of the

Agreed Minutes for its triangulation and demarcation. The fact that there were not suggests that the boundary was not considered in any detail in the run-up to the treaty or perhaps that Iraq still hankered after Warba and Bubiyan. Within only a few years Iraq returned to its demands that the islands should be ceded or leased by Kuwait.

For as long as Unikom remains stationed on the Iraq-Kuwait border, its poor definition is not likely to present problems. However, the U.N. guarantee of the border is only a short-term security measure which makes no attempt to get to the heart of the long-standing and previously intractable dispute over the definition of the Kuwait-Iraq boundary and the islands of Warba and Bubiyan. It remains to be seen in the medium and long term whether Iraq can finally reconcile itself to its geographically disadvantageous position at the head of the Gulf.

Richard Schofield is the author of 'Kuwait and Iraq: historical claims and territorial dispute', published by the Middle East Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Pollution worsens, but Kuwait still lacks clean-up plan

By Greg Myre

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Oil and raw sewage are still spilling into the Gulf. A river of crude a mile long runs through the desert. Smoke from oil well fires chokes the city on 100-degree days.

Despite an unprecedented environmental disaster that is getting worse, Kuwait's government still lacks a comprehensive clean-up plan and is relying almost entirely on volunteer efforts by foreigners.

In addition, the government has issued no substantive information on the potential long-term dangers of carcinogens in the blanket of black smoke that often covers Kuwait City.

"In the short term, we think it is safe for normal people living in residential areas," Ibrahim Hadi, head of the environment protection council, said in an interview recently. "In the long term, we don't know the effects."

The council, the government agency overseeing all environmental operations, has no budget or emergency supplies to conduct clean-up work. Most of the 30 staff members are office workers.

Environmentalists have become increasingly frustrated with the Kuwaiti government's approach to ecological problems inflicted by Iraq during its occupation.

"We thought these disasters would focus attention on the environment at last," said Rick Thorpe, of Earthwatch, a U.S. Hawaii-based environmental group. "But it hasn't. There is very little we see being done."

In Kuwait City, black flakes of burned oil fall from the sky, leaving distinctive speckles on car windshields and the white robes worn by Kuwaiti men.

Many scientists and doctors consider the particulates the greatest danger to human health from the burning oil. Scientists say the visible particulates are probably too big to be inhaled. But if smaller ones are present, they may not be filtered out by nostrils and could attach themselves to the lungs.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme are among several groups that have tested the air and said they found no evidence of immediate danger to healthy people.

Environmentalists have expressed concern that the summer heat — temperatures already are reaching 40C — will cause oil fire emissions to climb towards the upper atmosphere, thereby spreading pollution on a wider scale.

Already, there has been black rain in Turkey and Iran and black snow in the Himalayas.

Kuwait City has experienced four temperature inversions in recent weeks — more than it normally has in a year. During inversions, hot air is trapped below the cooler cloud of smoke, which gradually sinks onto the

city.

"The inversions have lasted for only a few hours," said Hadi. "But if they stay for days, only God knows what will happen."

Sami Al Yakoub, a Kuwaiti with a doctorate in environmental chemistry, says that until the government knows the full extent of the potential dangers it should evacuate towns near the oil fields, distribute protective masks and issue warnings on days when the smoke is bad.

Hadi said the government has no plans to take any of these steps.

Some 3,000 barrels of oil are still spilling into the Gulf daily via broken pipelines, sunken tankers and damaged port containers, according to Thorpe.

The Gulf oil spill, one of the largest every at more than 3 million barrels, was caused by Iraqis intentionally pumping oil into the Gulf and damaged inflicted in allied bombing attacks.

Kuwait is doing virtually nothing to contribute to the clean-up effort on its coast, where raw sewage also is flowing into the Gulf and producing a rotten egg smell.

Hadi said the Iraqis stole booms and oil skimming equipment, and his small staff is fearful of Iraqi mines near the coast.

But Thorpe and an Earthwatch colleague, Randy Thomas, said they found an Iraqi boom at the port of Shuaiba. They spent one Friday and Saturday positioning it to protect an estuary at Shuaiba, reportedly the only place prepared by the government to deal with oil spills.

"It's a good, elaborate plan, but we think we are the only people implementing it," said Thomas.

The oil slicks have killed thousands of birds along the coasts of Kuwait and northern Saudi Arabia. The damage also has affected the migration of millions of birds heading north from Africa to Europe, Iran and the southern Soviet Union.

Just north of Kuwait city, hundreds of thousands of birds would usually gather at high tide, but Thorpe said he counted only 30 on a recent day.

In Kuwait's burning oil fields, many wells are spewing oil that create lakes of several acres. There is one river of oil a mile long and five to 10 wide.

Much of that oil is likely to be baked into asphalt by the desert sun.

Even before the current crises, Kuwait suffered environmental damage from overgrazing by goats and sheep in its desert greenbelt and the elimination of coastal wetlands through industrialisation.

"We see a lack of environmental concern by Kuwaitis in so many ways," said Thorpe. He cited a painstaking effort by French foreign legionnaires to sweep a beach of mines, then grade it with a bulldozer. "A day later the beach was full of garbage. It makes me very pessimistic," he said.

Prime Minister

(Continued from page 1)

occupied territories.

But the PLO has been resisting attempts to exclude it from the peace process and insists that the Palestinian negotiating team should be appointed by the organisation and should include Palestinians from the occupied territories and the diaspora.

"There can be no genuine peace conference without a Palestinian representation," said Mr. Ahd Rabo. "The delegation should include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories."

PLO officials said that the idea of setting up a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation was not discussed at the FCC but that none of the Palestinian groups has opposed closer coordination with Jordan.

The officials said that Mr. Arafat will arrive in Amman soon, heading a delegation representing all the Palestinian groups to start talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Arafat is evidently trying to secure the backing of all the major factions within the organisation for any agreement or understanding he reaches with Jordan.

In 1983 the PLO chairman had to drop an initial agreement he had reached with Jordan when the Palestinian leadership refused to ratify it, while he faced strong opposition to the 1985 Amman accord from the Palestinian groups including his own Fatah organisation.

The Amman accord, which involved a joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy, called for an international peace conference based on all of the United Nations resolutions including 242 and 338.

The accord fell through mainly as a result of differences on the interpretation of the articles concerning the joint delegation and future Jordanian links with any Palestinian entity after an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

Most Palestinian groups, including some Fatah leaders, opposed a negotiating team headed by Jordan and did not accept confederation with Jordan unless it involved an independent Palestinian state.

The gap between the two sides widened as the differences continued and a year after the signing of the accord and the King publicly blamed the PLO for the failure of the joint strategy.

Jordanian officials had said then that the King's declaration

did not amount to the announcement of the accord, but the steps which followed, including the closure of the Fatah offices in Amman, were interpreted by the PLO as a practical Jordanian cancellation of the agreement.

In April 1987 Arafat finally agreed to formally annul the Amman accord in hope of reunifying the PLO which had suffered serious splits over the peace process since 1983.

But since then the attitude of Palestinian groups — mainly the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) — has dramatically shifted in favour of coordination with Jordan.

Even though Jordan and the PLO do not necessarily hold identical views on means to move the peace process, both sides will not compromise on two major issues: First, that any negotiations should be based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, which Israel has so far rejected. Second, that there should be an immediate halt to the construction of Israeli settlements.

Judging by statements made by Jordanian and Palestinian officials, both sides do not expect the Israeli government to accept any kind of territorial concessions and anticipate that this intransigence is more than capable of thwarting the peace process.

ments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; Israeli officials have repeatedly rejected any linkage between the settlements and the peace process.

Furthermore, the idea of a confederation with Jordan — once resented by many Palestinians — is now seen as a welcomed option by an increasing number of Palestinians. A recent opinion poll has shown that at least 60 per cent of the Palestinians in the West Bank support confederation with Jordan.

But analysts say that both Jordan and the PLO might not press for a joint — at least public — position on the issue of the joint negotiating delegation and a future confederation as they will both wait for the Israeli stand before embarking on such a move.

Two plane loads of Spanish paratroopers arrived in Turkey Saturday as the multinational force aiding Iraqi Kurdish refugees expanded further, officials said.

Two U.S. air force C-5 planes carrying 126 Spanish paratroopers landed at the joint Turkish-U.S. base at Incirlik on Saturday.

Kurdish zone

(Continued from page 1)

bishops told the Pope "about the situation of the population and of Christians after the tragedy of the Gulf war."

"We asked for the help of the Vatican to solve problems. In the first place the embargo which prevents our nation from living. We can't live from charity alone. The people have a right to live," he said.

Bidawid said the Pope agreed to the request. There was no immediate confirmation from the Vatican.

Spain, Italy send troops

Two plane loads of Spanish paratroopers arrived in Turkey Saturday as the multinational force aiding Iraqi Kurdish refugees expanded further, officials said.

Two U.S. air force C-5 planes carrying 126 Spanish paratroopers landed at the joint Turkish-U.S. base at Incirlik on Saturday.

said a U.S. spokeswoman at the base, Capt. Marcelle Adams. Under a Spanish request, the two American planes will make 12 trips to carry men and supplies from the Spanish paratrooper unit Agrupacion Alcala.

On Sunday, 900 Italian soldiers plus 120 Italian paratroopers are scheduled to join the "provide comfort" operation at Zakho, the site of the first allied-built refugee camp in northern Iraq.

Military units from Belgium and Luxembourg are also scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks, according to a spokeswoman at the Incirlik base.

EC

(Continued from page 1)

should show flexibility and realism so as to bring a climate of confidence favourable to the starting of negotiations.

The 12 strongly urged the Israeli government neither to allow nor encourage the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories.

Israeli activists protest too

At Revava, in the occupied

West Bank, and under heavy military escort, hundreds of Israeli peace activists drove in convoys along Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank on Saturday to protest against government building there.

Settler blocked roads to their colonies, and some brandished guns, buried rocks and made obscene gestures at the 300 activists from the Peace Now Movement.

"This is where your money is buried and where peace is being buried," veteran Peace Now activist Galia Golan said on a bill overlooking Revava settlement.

The Israeli army approved the protest but barred activists from raising placards and chanting near the settlements.

A group of ultra-nationalist Jews hastily set up Revava during the night last month, just before U.S. Secretary of State Baker arrived in Jerusalem on a regional peace mission.

The settlers said Revava was a message to Baker, who has said the settlements are an obstacle to Middle East peace.

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Economy

Hollywood glitz edges out steel in Dow index

NEW YORK (R) — Move over man of steel — here comes Mickey Mouse.

The Walt Disney Co. joins Wall Street's premiere index Monday, replacing USX Corp., the company founded by steel king Andrew Carnegie, in another sign of America's conversion from a manufacturing to a service economy.

"An entertainment company is replacing a smokestack company," said John Prestbo, one of the Wall Street Journal editors who helps select companies for the Dow Jones industrial average index.

"We're in a post-industrial age where services are more sought after. We wanted to reflect that in the Dow," said Prestbo, a day after the change was announced.

Disney joins the elite 30-share index with Caterpillar Inc. and J.P. Morgan and Co., the first commercial bank to enter the world's most widely-watched stock barometer.

USX Corp., founded at the turn of the century, made its exit Friday, one of three stocks ousted by the Dow Jones Co. as consumer-oriented companies outpace manufacturing titans.

Stocks in the Dow index are picked by editors of the journal, published by Dow Jones. Prestbo, who is the journal's markets editor, said the changes were not a radical departure.

Retailers Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Woolworth Co. have been in the Dow in 1928. In 1982, American Express Co. joined the ranks and three years later cigarette and food giant Philip Morris Inc. and McDonald's Corp. arrived. In 1987, the Coca-Cola Co. made its debut.

"The service part of the economy has grown a lot in the past decade or so. Entertainment has become a big focus in people's lives," Prestbo said.

He cited strong competition from foreign manufacturers, increased leisure time and the rise of two-income families for boosting the service sector. The revamped Dow — a very different economic barometer from the 11-stock index Charles Dow created in 1884 — mirrors that shift.

Disney couldn't have been happier. "We at Disney are delighted and thrilled to be nominated to the ranks of America's leadership companies," Disney Chairman Michael Eisner said in a statement.

"This recognition stems in part from the growing impact and popularity the entire American entertainment industry has attained."

USX was silent on its final day in the Dow.

Dow Jones said it dumped USX as the firm was splitting its stock in two, reflecting its steel and energy holdings. Both businesses are already represented in the average.

But the decision also reflects the primacy of the consumer — rather than basic industry — in today's economy. Spending by Americans accounts for two-thirds of economic growth, and as leisure has grown into a big money-maker, companies that play to consumers have boomed.

With the recession biting deep, hundreds of thousands of workers in the industrial heartland have been laid off. The service sector has remained far more resilient to the downturn.

The leisure ethic epitomized by Disneyland — which has been dubbed "a metaphor for America" — was an obvious choice for the widely-watched Dow, said Prestbo.

Disney's stock also got a big kick out of the news, jumping \$2.75 to \$120.625 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Swiss Banking Commission ends loophole on anonymous accounts

GENEVA (AP) — The Swiss Banking Commission has announced a new law that will clamp down on anonymous bank accounts to help rid the country of its image as a safe haven for ill-gotten gains.

The law, which was published Friday and takes effect in July, closes a loophole that allowed lawyers and fiduciary trustees in certain cases to deposit funds on behalf of their clients without disclosing the clients' identities.

But the law will have no impact on the most notorious on-going legal wrangle — the struggle by the Philippines government to recover funds stashed away by the late president Ferdinand Marcos and his associates.

The law is also unlikely to shed any more light on unconfirmed rumors that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has fortunes stashed in Switzerland. The main Swiss banks have denied they hold any funds of President Saddam and the Swiss government says it has no grounds to launch any investigation.

Nor will the law make any

difference to the holders of numbered Swiss accounts. The identity of such depositors is known to a small circle of officials within a bank, who are obliged to reveal the names of the client in the event of criminal proceedings.

Experts say the main value of the move will be as a potential weapon against tax defrauders. The extent to which it will help is however unclear.

The so-called Form B that provided for this anonymity will be abolished on July 1. Banks will have until Sept. 30, 1992 to ask current Form B depositors to identify their clients. In the case of a refusal the banks are required to stop the business relationship.

Switzerland's powerful banks long resisted the abolition of Form B, arguing that it was unnecessary and that money clients seeking discretion would merely turn to Luxembourg and Liechtenstein, Switzerland's tiny neighbors, as alternatives.

The banks dropped their opposition after talks with regula-

tory authorities earlier this year, although professional groups representing lawyers and trustees fought the plans to the end.

The regulatory banking commission had argued that the Form B provisions interfered with the ability of banks to meet the demands of the "due diligence" clause of the country's recent money-laundering law.

Under the law, banks and financial companies are required to assure the identity of their depositors.

The law, introduced last August, made money-laundering a crime for the first time in Switzerland.

In a further effort to ease the country's traditional banking secrecy, the government in March also proposed that financial officials should have a legal right to report suspicious dealings to authorities.

It suggested legislation be extended to cover companies and called for greater powers for investigating magistrates to seize suspicious assets. The proposals

are still under consideration. Friday's announcement, which was widely expected, will not ease the frustration of the Philippines government currently trying to recover funds it says belong to the Filipino people.

The return of more than \$340 million in Marcos assets hinges on Manila meeting conditions set by Switzerland's supreme court last December.

This said the Philippine government must open proceedings against the late dictator's wife Imelda within a year. It said Manila must guarantee that Mrs. Marcos would receive a fair trial conforming to Swiss standards and that a Philippines' court must subsequently issue a "legally valid" judgment.

During a visit to Bern last month, the Philippines' prosecutor-general Francisco Chavez accused Swiss authorities of making impossible demands. Switzerland froze Marcos assets and granted the Philippines legal assistance after he was deposed in 1986.

Spain unifies state-owned banks

MADRID, Spain (AP) — The government approved the creation of Spain's largest bank corporation Friday by bringing under one roof all state-owned and controlled banks, Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga said.

The new corporation was set up to give greater competitiveness in the European single market of 1993, when all barriers to the flow of capital, labour, goods and services are to be eliminated within the 12-member European Community (EC).

Solchaga said the cabinet approved the new bank holding group through a decree that named the concern Corporation Bancaria de Espana S.A.

The new bank group will have total assets of more than 8 trillion pesetas (\$80 billion), making it the nation's largest financial institution by far, he said.

The corporation now controls 2,300 bank offices across Spain, Europe, the United States and Latin America and employs just over 19,000 people.

In a change from current practice, the EC single market act will permit any bank licensed to operate within one of the EC member states to operate in any other EC country.

"The action is not a pure, tough merger, although different mergers may occur within the group," Solchaga said. "Rather, the government thought it advantageous now to bring all the state-held bank groups under one roof to prepare for the future."

The new entity will control 11.7 per cent of the Spanish banking market, he said.

The new corporation will bring under one roof the Banco Ex-

terior de Espana, the Caja Postal Savings Bank and the Official Credit Institute formed by the Banco de Credito Industrial, Banco de Credito Local, Banco Hipotecario and the Banco de Credito Agrario.

Banco Exterior de Espana controls several other smaller, regional banks and last year posted net profits of 13.9 billion pesetas (\$119 million), up 24 per cent.

Solchaga said the only pure merger will come soon between the Banco Exterior, with long-time expertise in foreign trade financing, and the Banco de Credito Industrial (BCI), which specializes in financing large industrial projects.

He said Banco Exterior planned to absorb BCI.

The Banco de Credito Local (BCL) specializes in long-term loans to Spanish local and region-

al governments.

Banco Hipotecario, the nation's leading mortgage bank, made loans last year totaling 225 billion pesetas (\$2.25 billion), and posted net profit of 14 billion pesetas (\$140 million).

Solchaga has long favoured the creation of a giant state bank working under the same strict conditions as Spain's big seven private banks. His strong support for bigger Spanish banks led two of them to form the country's largest private bank in 1988, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya.

Over the past few years, the market-oriented socialist government has eliminated almost all privileged access of state-controlled banks to cheaper state funds and subsidies, a practice employed since the end of the 1936-39 Spanish civil war.

Soviet miners end strike in 2nd biggest coalmine

MOSCOW (R) — Miners in the Soviet Union's giant Donbass coalfield have called off a nine-week strike and almost all the pits will be working from Sunday, a strike committee spokesman said Friday.

Miners at only five of the 127 pits in the Ukrainian field, the second largest in the Soviet Union after Kuzbass in Siberia, were refusing to go back, Vladimir Mityayev said by telephone from Donetsk.

Miners' leaders in Kuzbass have said they expected their strike to end next week, after

completion of a deal transferring control of the pits from the central government to Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation.

Mineworkers struck to support a variety of economic and political demands, ranging from higher wages to the resignation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ten days ago, Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said the strike, which has crippled the steel industry and other sectors, had cost the Soviet Union four billion rubles (more than \$6.5 billion at the official exchange rate).

Aid donors pledge \$2.3b to Pakistan

PARIS (R) — International donors Friday pledged \$2.3 billion aid for Pakistan and another \$174 million to help Afghan refugees in the country, the World Bank said.

The bank said in a statement that Pakistan expected to record "commendable" economic growth of about 5.5 per cent during the 1991-1992 financial year beginning in July, when the aid programme is to begin.

It said the donor countries and organisations urged Pakistan to emphasise social programmes and the environment.

Donors agreed that long-term improvement in Pakistan's living conditions was being adversely affected by high population growth.

Americans shift to self-employment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 6.6 per cent in April from 6.8 per cent in March, its first decline in almost a year, the Labour Department said Friday.

The better-than-expected jobless rate reflected a larger number of Americans working for themselves, it said.

But the recession continued to squeeze businesses, which trimmed their workforces for the ninth consecutive month, although at a slowing rate.

Payrolls outside the farm sector shrank by 124,000 in April after a 241,000 drop in March.

Wall Street analysts had expected the April unemployment rate to climb to seven per cent and payrolls to decline by 169,000.

The last time the unemployment rate fell was in May 1990, when it slipped to 5.3 per cent from 5.4 per cent.

The April improvement was a

surprise to many economists, who had predicted several more months of rising unemployment.

Employment is usually the last area to pick up as an economy recovers from recession because businesses prefer to have existing workers put in longer hours.

But the department found in its survey of households that employment last month rose by 644,000, with about half of those people reporting that they had chosen self-employment.

In contrast, in a separate survey of business payrolls which economists consider a more reliable indicator of economic health, the department found a different pattern — the job market remained weak across the board.

Since July 1990, when the current recession began, businesses have reduced their workforces by 1.6 million.

"They are welcome news, and

it is encouraging particularly since the economists and pundits had predicted unemployment would go up," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. But Fitzwater, asked whether the figures signalled an end to the recession, was cautious.

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Deutschemark	389.7	392.0	Swedish crown	109.9	110.6
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French franc	115.2	115.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.8	190.9

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Kuwait to ease boycott on firms with Israeli links

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to ease its boycott of Western companies with economic links to Israel and will urge other Gulf Arab states to do the same, the head of the customs department said Saturday.

"Our country was returned to us through God's will and the Americans," said Ibrahim Al Ghanem, who as director-general of customs is responsible for enforcing the boycott. "The least we can do is to pay back some of the favour."

At the same time Kuwait is reviewing tariff agreements with Arab states which sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf crisis, Ghanem told Reuters in an interview.

He did not name the countries. Jordan, Sudan and some North African states were broadly sympathetic to Iraq during the crisis sparked by its occupation of Kuwait last August.

"The political situation of Kuwait has changed from the past," said Ghanem. "We are more integrated with Western countries and Japan."

The Damascus-based Arab Boycott Office, an organ of the 21-member Arab League, lists hundreds of firms with economic links to Israel. League members are required to ban dealings with these companies.

Ghanem said Kuwait's boycott policy would be less rigid than before although companies with Israeli capital would still be barred. "The boycott policy will change from the past, specifically pertaining to the Israel Boycott Office," he said.

"Kuwait will take a different course regarding American, European and Japanese companies. They will have preferential treatment as regards the boycott."

Ghanem said those records on the boycott which were not destroyed by the Iraqis would be reviewed. "Our policy is to reduce boycott restrictions as regards the current companies. They will be allowed in after asserting their position and after their status has been studied," He did not elaborate.

He said Kuwait would seek a meeting of offices coordinating the boycott from its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "We will ask for a review of the Arab boycott laws."

Israel is a reality," one Kuwaiti official said privately this week. Ghanem said tariff agreements between Kuwait and pro-Iraqi Arab states were "frozen". "They will not have preferential treatment ... as to what will happen in the future I don't know but I expect the situation will not be as it was in the past."

Survey shows British industrialists optimistic

LONDON (AP) — The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has said that the downturn in manufacturing output may be leveling, but that its latest survey shows the nation's recession was more severe than expected.

The CBI, which represents major British industries, said that fewer manufacturers expected output to decline in the months ahead. But, it added, a sharp drop in output during the first quarter of the year was steeper than had been anticipated in the CBI's previous survey published in January.

The conclusions were published in the CBI's quarterly Industrial Trends Survey which covered 1,300 firms.

"The survey shows that the intensity of the downturn is slackening, and we may be approaching the turning point," said David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee.

But, he cautioned that even though the trend toward lower manufacturing output may have levelled "it is too early to speak of recovery."

The CBI said that the severity of Britain's recession during the first quarter of 1991 forced companies to hold back price increases to a level that was the lowest since the CBI started surveying industries in 1967.

"Wigglesworth said there were other hopeful signs."

"The survey shows the smallest decline in (business) confidence for two years and spending on training and innovation is holding up," he said.

The CBI warned that a sharp downturn in manufacturing output in the past year, which it estimates at more than seven per cent, suggests that it may "take a long time" for British manufacturing sector to recover even if the downturn is slowly reversed later this year.

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U.S. Congress mounts stiff opposition to new SDI plan

WASHINGTON (R) — Congress is mounting stiff opposition to President George Bush's revamped Star Wars defence plan, despite showing enthusiasm for systems to counter the kind of missile attacks Iraq launched in the Gulf war.

Orbiting astronauts put defence satellites through impressive tests this week, but political and military analysts say the space weapons programme still faces daunting legislative hurdles.

The first votes on the revised Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) are due next week, when the House Armed Services Committee acts on Bush's \$27.8 billion defence request for next year, which would provide \$5.2 billion for SDI.

Defence Committee chairmen say Congress might oppose the deployment of any U.S. anti-missile defence by the year 2000, even if space weapons are dropped.

"I don't believe there's yet a consensus in Congress for deploying ground-based defences for the United States," House Armed Services Chairman Les Aspin said.

"But we should support research and development that will give us real development options in the next several years."

In the days before the vote, the space shuttle Discovery has been running tests on satellites which would detect enemy missiles heading for the United States and alert ground or space weapons to seek and destroy them.

Using a research satellite, the shuttle has been trying to determine how to identify the exhaust plumes of enemy missile against the images produced by other lights in space.

Defence officials say that if the Star Wars system works, six sites could defend all U.S. cities from a limited nuclear missile attack from a small country or from an

accidental firing from within the Soviet Union.

Bush's plan envisages developing better "anti-missile missiles," like the Patriot used against the Scuds during the Gulf conflict, to intercept rockets fired at U.S. or allied troops in a ground war. Congress is expected to approve.

Congress is less likely to act on the next step — research on deploying 750 ground-based missiles at six sites nationwide by the year 2000.

Bush's third step would be to build a thousand "brilliant pebble" rockets to orbit the Earth and defend U.S. and allied cities against an attack by up to 200 missiles.

After years of Congress opposition, Bush last January ordered the Defence Department to focus research on limited defence rather than against a massive Soviet nuclear attack.

Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, said in a speech the limited de-

fence plan made sense, adding that Iraq's use of Scud missiles could be a harbinger of a time when a small country fires long-range missiles at the United States.

He said instability in the Soviet Union might also trigger the unthinkable — a limited Soviet attack.

But he warned that Moscow could respond to a deployment of U.S. space weapons by scrapping any U.S.-Soviet strategic arms reduction treaty signed in the future, and deploy an array of mobile nuclear missiles.

So many in Congress feel the best strategy is to proceed only with research, reserving the option of actual deployment should any threat emerge.

That means the House Armed Services Committee will approve about \$3.9 billion for Star Wars, more than last year's three billion well short of the \$5.2 billion Bush wants.

More violence erupts before Yugoslav leaders discuss unrest

BELGRADE (R) — Fresh violence broke out in Yugoslavia Saturday, hours before the state presidency held crisis talks on clashes between Serbs and Croats that have killed 16 people.

Croats manning a barricade outside the town of Sotin in northeastern Croatia opened fire after shots from a nearby house sent them diving for cover, a Reuters reporter on the scene said. No-one appeared to have been killed.

Tensions remained high in Croatia, where 13 Croatian police and three civilians died in gunbattles Thursday in the worst post-

war clashes between Serbs and Croats, Yugoslavia's biggest nationalities and old rivals.

Many towns were sealed off with barricades. On Saturday a bomb blast set ablaze the Sarajka Restaurant in Vukovar in northeastern Croatia and another bomb demolished a Croatian butcher's shop in Dvor Na Uni in central Croatia. No-one was hurt.

"It is hard to answer the question of whether civil war has started or not... but it is obvious we are on the brink of chaos," the Serbian newspaper Politika said. The violence climaxed a year of

rising tension since free elections in the six Yugoslav republics last year unleashed old ethnic rivalries suppressed under Communist rule in the country of 23.5 million people.

The eight-member presidency, which can impose a state of emergency, called a special session to discuss the situation with Prime Minister Ante Markovic, his interior minister, the army's chief of staff and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

The presidency, the highest state body, groups representatives of the country's six republics and two provinces.

Poll shows Britain's Labour ahead

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister John Major, bruised after massive Conservative losses in local elections, received a further blow Saturday when an opinion poll showed the opposition Labour party in the lead.

The ICM survey published in the Daily Express newspaper gave Labour a two-point national lead over the ruling Conservatives.

The poll, carried out Friday after millions of Britons voted for local councils, showed Labour with 40 per cent electoral support, the Conservatives 38 and the centrist Liberal Democrats 19.

The Conservatives, beset by economic problems and a rise in unemployment figures, suffered a net loss of nearly 900 council seats in elections across England and Wales. There were no elections in Scotland and London.

Major called the results disappointing and Conservative Party spokesman indicated that a June general election was no longer on the agenda.

ICM interviewed a sample of 1,074 adults for the poll in 52 constituencies across Britain.

Stunning opposition victories Friday in local elections shook the Conservative Party's 12-year grip on power.

Battered Conservatives blamed their trouncing in local elections on the recession and on the so-called poll tax imposed under Margaret Thatcher's government.

Major, who hastily disowned the tax after the party dumped Mrs. Thatcher in November, said the results were "quite disappointing."

"But I think there's a great deal to look forward to... We are on an upswing and they have peaked," he said in a television interview, referring to the main opposition Labour Party.

At stake in the Thursday polling were seats in 369 local councils.

Prisoners free from jail after quake in S. Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Police searched Saturday for nearly 100 prisoners who escaped after guards let them out of their cells fearing the prison near the centre of Soviet Georgia's earthquake zone would collapse.

The prison's 300 inmates were allowed into a courtyard "for humanitarian reasons" late Friday when an aftershock shook the area, said Archil Kostava, the top administrative official in the city of Kutaisi.

Kostava said nearly 100 prisoners threatened their armed guards, who inexplicably allowed them to flee. Ten prisoners voluntarily returned overnight and police rounded up some others, he said.

Roads surrounding Kutaisi were blocked and police searched cars for the remainder, some of whom were considered dangerous, Kostava said by telephone. Free-lance Georgian journalist Mikhail Takhelidze said the prisoners "provoked a clash" with their guards before escaping. Kutaisi residents reported hearing gunshots, he said.

A powerful earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale rocked mountainous North-Central Georgia Monday, killing at least 114 people. Aftershocks throughout Friday set off landslides, killed three people and leveled three remote Caucasus mountain villages damaged by the initial tremor.

Kutaisi is the city closest to the quake zone.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in magnitude. Thus a reading of 7.5 reflects an earthquake 10 times stronger than one of 6.5. A 7 reading is considered a "major" earthquake, capable of widespread heavy damage.

Soviet television news said the final toll may reach 300 dead and 1,000 injured.

TASS said the tremors measured a relatively low 3 to 4 on the Soviet 12-point scale. The U.S. National Earthquake Information Centre Colorado said the aftershocks must have measured less than 5 on the Richter Scale because its instruments could not detect them.

Opperman said ANC representatives supported the police

S. Africa police swoop on townships in arms search

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police, backed up by the army, searched for weapons in black township hostels near Johannesburg Saturday in an attempt to curb spiralling violence which has killed more than 100 people in a week.

Police Saturday found the bodies of five more people in Soweto township, four of them hacked to death and the other burned, taking the week's death toll there to at least 40.

The fighting, largely fuelled by a feud between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and those of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, has claimed some 1,500 lives around Johannesburg since August.

Police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngweni said raids were made on the Jabulani and Meadowlands hostels and the Chicken Farm squatter camp in Soweto. He could give no details.

Soon after midnight more than 2,000 police swooped on three hostels housing mainly Zulu migrant workers southeast of Johannesburg, and another in Alexandra township north of the city, after the army cordoned off parts of the areas.

The police backed off from Wolfontein and Denver hostels when confronted by growing mobs of armed, belligerent and apparently drunk residents.

"There was no way to reason and talk with the people," police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said. "Liquor played a big role. If we had had to go in, using force, there could have been trouble."

The residents were armed with spears, wore the red headbands favoured by Inkatha supporters and chanted anti-ANC slogans. Opperman said police confiscated a number of weapons at the other two hostels raided, including spears, sharpened iron rods and axes which were not considered part of the cultural weaponry Zulus are allowed to carry.

The swoop followed a Friday raid on an Inkatha hostel in Soweto which has been at the centre of many of the recent clashes, and was carried out at the request of the ANC on the basis of information it had on weapons kept in hostels.

Opperman said ANC representatives supported the police

decision to avoid confrontation at Denver and Wolfontein hostels.

He said the police, accused by both the ANC and Inkatha of favouring the other, would probably be willing to carry out similar raids if requested by Inkatha.

The weapons search was carried out less than a week before a Thursday deadline set by Mandela for President F.W. de Klerk to act to halt the bloodshed. Mandela has threatened to break off power-sharing talks if de Klerk fails to meet the ultimatum.

Soweto residents said Friday they still smell death in their township.

Relatives mourned the deaths of their loved ones and residents counted the cost of the destruction of their property as the ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party attempted to sell a peace pact to their grassroots followers.

ANC and Inkatha signed a peace accord Thursday after intense negotiations mediated by the police to bring the carnage to an end.

Leaders promised to sell the pact to militant supporters but the ink was hardly dry when the rival factions renewed their murderous attacks on each other.

"Our attempts to control our followers are being frustrated and foiled by these attacks. This is what I call war," said Musa Myeni, a senior Inkatha official whose house was fire-bombed Thursday.

"We still want to stretch a hand of friendship to all people concerned... only a miracle could get us out of this civil war we are facing," Myeni told Reuters.

"I do not think I will be able to handle all this. Who is going to raise my eight children?" asked Soweto resident Timothy Motha, whose 36-year-old wife Sindiswe was killed by a stray bullet.

As he spoke, some of his children were still weeping uncontrollably at the loss of their mother.

"The people who shot at this innocent woman were with the police and the police did nothing to prevent the shooting," anti-apartheid leader Winnie Mandela said Thursday after visiting the Mothas' house.

"It is better to be outside protecting yourself than being inside thinking that the police will protect you," a resident commented.

Author Jerzy Kosinski commits suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — Author Jerzy Kosinski, who survived the Nazi occupation of his native Poland and went on to write The Painted Bird and the satirical Being There, committed suicide Friday. He was 57.

His body was discovered at 9:30 a.m. (1330 GMT) in his Manhattan apartment by his wife.

Katherine von Frannhofer-Kosinski, said police spokeswoman officer Janice Swinney. He had a plastic bag pulled over his head and was in the bathtub, she said.

A note was found at the scene, but its contents were not revealed by police.

"My husband had been in deteriorating health as a result of a

serious heart condition," his wife said in a statement. "He had become depressed by his growing inability to work, and by his fear of being a burden to me and his friends."

Kosinski had been at a party Thursday night at the home of author Gay Talese, who said he "stayed late and seemed as cheerful and smart as ever."

Cardinal buried in Hungary after 20-year exile

ESZTERGOM, Hungary (R) — The body of Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty, arch-enemy of communism, was buried in his native Hungary Saturday after an exile that continued after his death and ended only with his country's return to democracy.

Church and government leaders bowed before the Hungarian primate's coffin on a tier outside the 11th century Esztergom Basilica during rites attended by 60,000 Roman Catholic faithful.

His remains had been brought back from Austria, where he died in 1975 aged 85 after instructing

they should return to Hungary only when the Communist era was over.

A black-draped national flag, the Communist emblem cut from its centre, hung close to the burnished coffin.

For Hungary's Catholics, Mindszenty's reburial in Esztergom, where he was titular archbishop for almost 30 years, symbolised the end of a period of suffering for their church.

Mindszenty was jailed for life at a Communist show trial in 1949, freed briefly during the 1956 Budapest uprising, and then

spent 16 years in lonely asylum at the American embassy in Budapest.

His obstinate refusal to compromise with the Communist regime when the West later sought détente with East Europe caused the Vatican to order him into exile in the 1970s.

Cardinal Laszlo Paskai, the present Hungarian primate, and Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, whose centre-right government ended four decades of communism in elections last year, led the homage to Mindszenty.

S. Korean police, protesters battle in central Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Violence erupted in the heart of Seoul Saturday as hundreds of protesters calling for the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo fought bit-and-run battles with riot police.

Students overturned and set fire to a police vehicle in front of the Bank of Korea, South Korea's central bank, and taunted riot police with an impromptu sit-in outside a former royal palace in the central of the city.

Terrified Saturday shoppers fled barrages of tear-gas and baton charges by lines of grey-clad riot police. High-pressure arches from water cannons sliced across the wide boulevards bisecting the capital.

The protesters, mostly students, dissidents and labour activists, assembled in at least three areas in the capital and defied government orders not to march towards city hall.

"Overthrow Roh Tae-Woo," they chanted as they locked arms and moved towards the lines of helmeted riot police.

In Pusan, the country's second largest city, about 10,000 demonstrators held an anti-government rally without interference from more than 2,000 watching riot

police.

It was the first time this year protests have flared in the centre of Seoul. Both sides appeared to be acting with restraint, and some riot police looked frustrated at new rules that curb their tactics.

The current series of protests began last weekend after five riot policemen beat 20-year-old student Kang Kyung-Dae to death on April 26 in a demonstration in Seoul.

The death has set off days of violent protests demanding Roh apologise, sack his cabinet and disband a detested plainclothes riot control corps. Roh has expressed regret and fired the home minister.

Three students have set themselves on fire to protest against Kang's death. Two have died and a third is in grave condition in hospital.

About 100 Anglican clergymen and followers have started a sit-in at Seoul station to protest against the death Friday night of Chon Se-Young, Chon, a Baptist Anglican, set himself alight that afternoon in a protest in Seoul.

Earlier, protesters approached police lines and tossed or handed flowers to officers. When scuffles

broke out, taunts and stones replaced the flowers. However, the students refrained from throwing firebombs.

Witnesses said at least three separate marches began, involving fewer than 10,000 protesters. Dissident organisers had expected hundreds of thousands of marchers.

In several instances, police failed to give prior warning before firing tear-gas at protesters, as is required under new conciliatory riot control rules announced by the government Friday.

Government leaders and opposition politicians have pleaded with the protesters to end the self-immolations that have shocked many south Korean whose Confucian society accords a valued status to students.

May has been a traditional month for radical protest in South Korea, climaxing with the emotive May 18 anniversary of the 1980 Kwangju massacre when troops killed hundreds of civilians in an uprising in the southwestern city.

In 1987, a student's death at a demonstration sparked huge protests across Korea that eventually forced the military government to concede democratic reforms and

an open presidential election.

Kang's death has galvanised South Korea's radical movement, which had been losing popular support. However, the current protests fail to approach 1987 in either intensity or numbers.

Earlier Saturday, newly appointed Home Minister Lee Sang-Yeon further curbed the activities of the controversial plainclothes Paegoldan, or skeleton corps of riot police, whose disbanding has been demanded by protesters.

The Paegoldan operate in small groups, calling out protesters for detention and often beating them.

Under the new regulations, Paegoldan will be given a uniform similar to other riot police and "be stationed only when demonstrations become really violent or when radical protesters or leaders have to be caught."

Five Paegoldan have been charged by state prosecutors with beating Kang with iron bars after he was cornered trying to run away from advancing riot police.

The five have been charged with homicide. They told prosecutors they were only following orders.

Dallas ends with a cliffhanger

DALLAS Texas (R) — The soap opera Dallas, which perfected the nail-biting, cliffhanger format for television, ended Friday true to style, leaving viewers to decide whether villain J.R. Ewing committed suicide in the final episode.

"It was kind of a weird way to go out, but I give them credit for sticking with the cliffhanger style," said Wayne Perkins, a Dallas resident who watched the final show at a city restaurant where several scenes for the popular series were filmed.

Dallas, which went off the air Friday with a final two-hour segment, completed a 13-year, 356-episode run that was second in longevity only to the western series Gunsmoke, starring James Arness, which ran for 401 shows.

The final show of Dallas was filled with surprises, including the final scene, in which J.R. contemplates shooting himself. J.R.'s dastardly deeds and family betrayals were the central theme of the series, but the script of the final show was kept secret.

Putting a black-humour spin on Frank Capra's film "It's A Wonderful Life," a supernatural being, which turns out to be a devil instead of an angel, urges J.R. to kill himself after two hours or showing what life would have been like if J.R. had never been born.

J.R. is seen raising a handgun towards his face. The sound of a gunshot rings out and J.R.'s brother Bobby rushes into J.R.'s bedroom. Bobby gasps and cameras show a close-up of him looking aghast at the floor. Then the show ends — without revealing J.R.'s condition.

"Well, they can certainly bring this show back alive if they want to," said Carla Charles, another longtime Dallas fan who said she had videotaped every episode.

"But I expect it will only be around in re-runs."

Dallas was the top-rated series for three years from 1980 and was still in the top 10 as recently as 1986.

The final episode of the 1980



Larry Hagman played the part of the star villain, J.R. Ewing, in Dallas (left photo) season perfected the television cliffhanger with the apparent shouting of J.R.

For the next six months, people around the world wondered "who shot J.R.?"

When the show resumed on Nov. 21, 1980, 300 million people in 65 countries tuned in to learn the answer. It was the most-watched episode in U.S. television history up to that time, surpassed later only by the final episode of M.A.S.H.

More than 2,000 people gathered about 20 miles (32 kilometres) northeast of central Dallas at Southfork Ranch Friday, where most of the show's outdoor scenes were filmed.

Promoters of Southfork as a tourist attraction say they believe visitors will come for years.

"They want to see the birthplace of all J.R.'s evil plots," said J.R. Duncan, who built the ranch

and now sells souvenirs from a trailer parked nearby.

Texas Governor Ann Richards signed a proclamation honouring the show in Austin Friday, saying that because of "Texas belt buckles, boots, hats and jeans are known all around the world."

Dallas City officials said the show did much to eod the city's notoriety as the place where popular President John Kennedy was assassinated.

"People around the world now think of Dallas as a place of rich people and cadillacs, not assassins," said Doris Hayward.

The show, which was produced by Lorimar Studios in Burbank, California, and aired by CBS, was cancelled because of falling ratings. It had slipped to 60th place among the 136 television series aired during the current season.

COLUMN

Sudan sets blood money in cash instead of Camels

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan says murderers can pay compensation to relatives of their victims in cash rather than camels — in short supply in the drought-hit country. Chief Justice Jafar Ali Lufi issued a circular setting the amount of blood money at 200,000 Sudanese pounds (\$44,000). Khartoum's Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper reported.

Islamic Sharia Law, which came into effect on March 22, sets Diya — the compensation paid to the family of murder victims — at 100 camels. But a judge said that because of a shortage of camels, Islamic jurists had decided that Diya could be paid in money. The chief justice issued his circular after forming a committee to assess the Diya value of a camel.

Al Sudan Al Hadith said criminal courts could send a convicted murderer to jail even after he has paid Diya ordered by a civil court. It did not give the prison term stipulated in the law.

Japanese torpedo found at Pearl Harbour

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (R) — A Japanese aerial torpedo containing 600 pounds (270 kg) of high explosives, presumably dropped during the Japanese attack on Pearl harbour nearly 50 years ago, has been dredged up in the Harbour, U.S. naval officials said Friday. The harbour was closed to tourist boats after the torpedo was discovered and naval experts will blow up the missile at sea. The torpedo was found in a scoop of muck dredged up by a private contractor's vessel near Ford Island, in the harbour, and a few hundred metres from the U.S.S. Arizona memorial, a shrine over the battleship sunk in the air attack. The Pearl Harbour attack on Dec. 7, 1941, killed 2,300 U.S. servicemen, sank or badly damaged 18 warships and destroyed 188 planes. Americans shot down 29 Japanese planes and the United States declared war on Japan the following day. Naval weapon experts said the torpedo had deteriorated so much any attempt to disarm it and keep it as a museum exhibit would be dangerous.

Doctors remove giant ovarian cyst

BALTIMORE (AP) — doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital removed a 180-pound (81-kilogram) ovarian cyst from a 40-year-old West Virginia woman, a hospital spokeswoman said. The patient was in guarded but stable condition Friday, said hospital spokeswoman Meg Kabis. Thursday's 10-hour operation was led by Dr. John Currie, director of gynecologic oncology at Hopkins. "That is abnormally, abnormally abnormal," said Dr. Raymond Kaufman, chairman of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department of Baylor College of Medicine in Madison, Texas. "That's a rarity." There are different types of ovarian cysts, but unless the patient is extremely obese, most can be detected with a pelvic exam when they are 3 or 4 centimetres in diameter and "a couple of grams" in weight, he said. Hopkins officials would not release further information about the patient or her weight because she was recovering and they were unable to get her consent.

Britons urged to battle EC to keep their crisps spicy

LONDON (R) — Britons are gnashing their teeth over a European Community (EC) rule that could drive their favourite snack, the potato crisp, into extinction. The wafer-thin slices of fried potato with added flavours — from prawn to what is said to be hedgehog — are staple fare in British pubs. A draft EC directive forgot to include them in a list of foods to which artificial flavours may be added and makers fearing a ban sought urgent talks with the government. The jingoistic top-selling Sun newspaper took aim at Germany's Martin Bangemann, the EC industry commissioner who rejected pleas last week to hit crisps and other snack foods on to the end of that list. "Come on, you sun crisp lovers, and show the sour Kraut what he is missing," cried the Sun, printing Bangemann's address and urging readers to mail him packets of the delicacies. The directive becomes law if it wins support from a majority of the 12 EC states. Diplomats in Brussels said Britain would be isolated in a fight to save the crisp.